

PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

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PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

Dedicated to the Study and Conservation of Pacific Seabirds
and Their Environment

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) was formed in 1972 due to the need for better communication among Pacific seabird researchers. PSG provides a forum for the research activities of its members, promotes the conservation of seabirds, and informs members and the public of issues relating to Pacific Ocean seabirds and their environment. PSG members include research scientists, conservation professionals, and members of the public from all parts of the Pacific Ocean. The group also welcomes seabird professionals and enthusiasts in other parts of the world. PSG holds annual meetings at which scientific papers and symposia are presented; abstracts for meetings are published on our web site. The group is active in promoting conservation of seabirds, include seabird/fisheries interactions, monitoring of seabird populations, seabird restoration following oil spills, establishment of seabird sanctuaries, and endangered species. Policy statements are issued on conservation issues of critical importance. PSG's journals are *Pacific Seabirds* (formerly the *PSG Bulletin*) and *Marine Ornithology*. Other publications include symposium volumes and technical reports; these are listed near the back of this issue. PSG is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ornithological Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. Annual dues for membership are \$30 (individual and family); \$24 (student, undergraduate and graduate); and \$900 (Life Membership, payable in five \$180 installments). Dues are payable to the Treasurer; see the PSG web site, or the Membership Order Form next to inside back cover.

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The Pacific Seabird Group is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Contributions to the Pacific Seabird Group are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed US law (IRS Section 501[c][3]).

Pacific Seabirds

This journal publishes short peer-reviewed articles, reports of ongoing work, conservation news, and other items of importance to conservation of seabirds in the Pacific Ocean. The journal is published twice a year in spring and fall. Materials should be submitted to the Editor, except that conservation-related material should be submitted to the Associate Editor for Conservation. Information for contributors to *Pacific Seabirds* is published in each Fall issue and is on PSG's web site. Editorial policies accord with those of PSG's Executive Council; in other matters the journal aims for an unbiased point of view. Back issues of the *PSG Bulletin* and *Pacific Seabirds* are posted on the group's web site or may be ordered from the treasurer (see Membership/Order Form next to inside back cover for details). Submission deadlines are 20 March for the spring issue and 20 September for the fall issue; manuscripts may be submitted at any time.

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Marine Ornithology presents peer-reviewed contributions concerning international seabird science and conservation. The journal is published two times a year. It is available on its web site or by subscription. The journal is supported by a partnership of global seabird societies, including the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), African Seabird Group, Australasian Seabird Group, the Seabird Group (UK), Dutch Seabird Group, and Japan Seabird Group. For further information see www.marineornithology.org

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Vivian Mendenhall

Pacific Seabirds has been adding a few things in the past year: an Associate Editor, a new section in the journal, and (most recently) this column.

Since the first issue of *Pacific Seabirds*, in 1973, the journal has supported PSG's purposes by keeping members in touch with recent research and conservation concerns. It also runs news about PSG itself—annual meetings, elections, EXCO minutes, committee reports, and so on.

The new section in *Pacific Seabirds* is "How PSG Works." In 2011 (Volume 38), we started with two articles: "How PSG Runs" and "How the PSG Executive Council Works." The first tells what PSG does besides Annual Meetings. Many members who attend meetings might like to know more about our year-round work, such as conservation of seabirds, support for scientists in developing countries, and keeping PSG financially sound.

"How the PSG Executive Council Works" and two associated articles contain good information for all of PSG, but especially for EXCO members. EXCO is PSG's Board of Directors, and therefore its members have certain legal obligations. EXCO has performed well (overall) during PSG's 40-year history, and its tasks are usually pretty routine. But members have to work very hard when PSG or EXCO come under stress—when emotions run high due to drastic differences of opinion, or when we face unexpected expenditures or losses. In those situations (and to forestall potential problems!), it is crucial that EXCO members make well-thought-out and responsible decisions. Both EXCO and PSG will benefit if new EXCO members read "How the PSG Executive Council Works," "The obligations of EXCO Members," and associated articles (especially if you haven't already). They are in *Pacific Seabirds*, Volume 38, pages 4-11.

Pat Jodice also discusses these concerns in "The Chair's Page," on page 18 of this issue. And EXCO is arranging a workshop for itself on Board duties, in association with the Portland meeting in 2013.

We are continuing "How PSG Works" in this issue with the Conservation Committee, which does PSG's respected advocacy for science-based conservation. Craig Harrison describes how the committee functions, what it has achieved over the last couple of years, and who can help. Future articles will focus on PSG's commitment to scientists around the Pacific Rim; the financial benefits and risks of Annual Meetings (alongside their many benefits for science and conservation); and other year-round work. (If you would like to see a topic addressed in "How PSG Works," please contact the Editor!)

Lastly, my acknowledgements: Pat Baird suggested the idea of an Editor's column; and I owe its title, and much of my inspiration (if any), to Malcolm Coulter, long-time editor of the *PSG Bulletin*.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Seabird Group occasionally honors major contributors to seabird science and conservation with Lifetime Achievement or Special Achievement awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose outstanding work for seabirds has influenced the course of research, conservation, and/or education throughout the Pacific or the world.

PSG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR JOHN COOPER

By Alan E. Burger



John Cooper with an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross on Gough Island. Photo: Ross Wanless.

The Pacific Seabird Group seldom gives awards to seabird biologists whose principal area of activity is outside the Pacific Ocean. But, in giving the Lifetime Achievement Award to John Cooper, who has worked primarily in southern Africa, the Subantarctic and Antarctic, PSG is recognizing an exceptional international contribution to seabird research, conservation and publishing. The award was presented on 10 February 2012 at PSG's annual meeting on Oahu, Hawai'i.

John was born in 1947 in the United Kingdom, migrated southward at a young age, and spent most of his life in southern Africa. Growing up in

unspoiled African bush, he developed a love of nature and a lifelong desire to study and nurture birds and their habitats. After graduating from the University of Rhodesia (then a college of the University of London), John moved to South Africa where he started working on seabirds. He arrived in Cape Town at the time of great concern over the status of the African (Jackass) Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). This iconic species, the only penguin species that breeds off Africa, was undergoing precipitous declines, which continue in much of its range today. Among the many factors contributing to the penguins decline were (and

still are) oil spills from the thousands of ships passing the Cape of Good Hope each year, and competition with fisheries. Hired to work on the African Penguin, John joined the staff of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1973. Over the next 35 years he was a well-known and easily identified fixture at UCT, first at the FitzPatrick Institute (1973-1996) and later at the Animal Demography Unit (1997-2008). During much of this long period John was unmistakable for his unruly Afro-style hair and whimsical Spike Milligan-style humor.

Working under Professor Roy Siegfried at the FitzPatrick Institute, John was part of a research team that began a new era of groundbreaking research into African and Subantarctic seabirds. John's field work during this period entailed long months on some of South Africa's isolated guano islands, primarily Dassen and Marcus Islands near Saldanha Bay. The guano scrapers of that era were all alumni of the toughest South African prisons, and John developed essential skills in negotiating with people of very diverse viewpoints. This was often hot, dusty work, but it gave John a solid grounding in field techniques and fortitude. John would organize volunteer work expeditions to these islands, inviting students to help with nest monitoring, banding, and other field work. As an undergraduate participant in several of these guano island work parties, I too was initiated into the scruffy fraternity

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of seabird biology. Even today the scent of dried guano conjures up wonderful memories of long hot days counting and banding penguins, punctuated by memorable feasts of the freshest rock lobster, washed down with flagons of cheap Cape wine.

It is no exaggeration to say that John Cooper has contributed in a major way to research, public awareness, and conservation of every southern African seabird species. His work on the African Penguin, Bank Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax neglectus*) and African Gannet (*Morus capensis*), in particular, was solid and remains very relevant decades later. John has written or coauthored over 300 research papers, books, book chapters and other publications dealing with seabirds and their conservation. He has been a mentor and collaborator with many leading researchers in our field, including Rob Crawford, Bob Furness, Peter Ryan, Rory Wilson, and many others.

During his long tenure at UCT, John played a pivotal role as the honorary librarian for the Southern African Ornithological Society (now BirdLife South Africa). Through a clever array of reciprocal agreements with other societies, the FitzPatrick Institute received nearly all the leading ornithological and zoological journals at almost no cost; as a result, the institute's Niven Library now has the best ornithological collection in the southern hemisphere. For this contribution to African education and research, part of the Niven Library was named the John Cooper Antarctic Collection. In 2012 John received the Gill Memorial Medal Award from BirdLife South Africa, its highest honor, for outstanding lifetime contributions to ornithology in southern Africa.

In the 1980s John began working on seabirds on the subantarctic islands nearest to Africa. First at Marion and Prince Edward Island, and later at Gough Island and the Tristan da Cunha Islands, John contributed significantly to understanding, managing and

conserving these magical islands and their globally important seabird populations. He was among the first to raise the alarm over the impacts of longline fishing (often illegal), which was killing tens of thousands of albatrosses and petrels in the Southern Oceans. He has also contributed

significantly to studying and removing malicious introduced plants and animals in these vulnerable Subantarctic ecosystems. Partly as a result of his international lobbying and collaborative work, there are today strong programs in place on these islands to restore and protect the island ecosystems. John is a member of the Management Committee for the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve, and these islands are the first Subantarctic RAMSAR sites. John is an honorary Conservation Officer of the Government of Tristan da Cunha. He drafted the current conservation legislation for the Tristan islands and he serves on the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group (T-BAG). John is not just a boardroom biologist — it seems his greatest joy is to be on these islands doing hands-on work, like banding seabirds or pulling alien weeds which are threatening the local vegetation and bird nesting habitat.

In post-Apartheid South Africa John ventured away from academia for two years, when in 1996 he was invited to be a Ministerial Advisor to the late Kader Asmal, the highly respected Minister of Water Affairs and Tourism in Nelson Mandela's cabinet. In this capacity John honed his skills at international diplomacy, including work with the Independent World Commission on the Oceans. During this



John Cooper doing field work on Gough Island. Photo: Ross Wanless

phase he also underwent a significant change in sartorial appearance. The wild Afro hair and wrinkled T-shirts disappeared and John the guano islander acquired a collection of spiffy shirts and silk ties.

Currently John is an honorary Research Associate at the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University. He continues management-related research on southern islands and delves into the history of the South African National Antarctic Programme and the Subantarctic Prince Edward Islands.

One of the primary reasons that PSG is recognizing John Cooper with this award is his major contribution to global seabird conservation initiatives. He contributed significantly to seabird management within the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR). From 1997 to 2001 he initiated and coordinated the global Seabird Conservation Programme of BirdLife International. He was one of the major contributors to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), which is a remarkable example of international cooperation and foresight (its URL is <http://www.acap.aq/>). ACAP is a multilateral agreement that seeks to conserve albatrosses and petrels by identifying and mitigating threats to

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Lifetime Achievement awardees on the Galápagos Islands—John Cooper (left) and John Croxall

their populations. ACAP came into force in February 2004; it currently has 13 member countries and covers 29 species of albatrosses and petrels. John served as the Vice-Chair of the ACAP

Advisory Committee, and he remains as the honorary Information Officer for ACAP. He researches and writes daily news items for the ACAP website. John has been a major organizer and contributor to international conferences on penguins and albatrosses, in which capacity he is well known to many PSG members. He was asked to give the closing plenary to the 2004 Waterbirds Around the World conference in Edinburgh, and he warmed up the crowd for the final speaker, HRH Prince Charles.

Perhaps our greatest debt to John Cooper is for his work as editor and publisher over a period of 35 years. In 1976 John founded the Southern African Seabird Group and was the editor of its journal, *The Cormorant*. With John at the helm, the group soon evolved into the African Seabird Group, and in 1990 *The Cormorant* changed into *Marine Ornithology*. In 2001 *Marine Ornithology* became truly international, when, under John's

guidance, it became a joint venture of five groups: the African, Pacific, Dutch, UK, and Japanese seabird groups. John continued as senior editor and guru until 2009. Under his watchful eye the current editors are striving to maintain the rigorous standards of editing and layout precision that John long maintained.

For his significant and lengthy contributions to seabird research, international conservation and education, and his dedicated work leading to the establishment of a truly international seabird journal, *Marine Ornithology*, the Pacific Seabird Group is pleased to honor John Cooper with its Lifetime Achievement Award. John is also the first Honorary Member of PSG.

A partial list of John Cooper's scientific publications is available on this website: http://adu.org.za/jc_publ1.php

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Peter Ryan for help in preparing this note, and to Ross Wanless for photographs.



John Cooper receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award from PSG Chair Pat Jodice, 10 February 2012



John Cooper with his award, together with the journal he founded: *The Cormorant* (left), and its continuation to the present day, *Marine Ornithology*

CONSERVATION REPORT

Compiled by Jo Smith

USFWS LOWERS THE LISTING PRIORITY NUMBER FOR KITTLITZ'S MURRELET

In September 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lowered the Listing Priority Number (LPN) for the Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) from a 2 to an 8. This was because the magnitude of threats was changed from "high" to "moderate to low." The Kittlitz's Murrelet is still a candidate for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the USFWS received funding for this assessment as an outcome of the multi-district legislation settlement in September 2011.

USFWS's Listing Priority Number is a unique combination of (1) magnitude of threats, (2) immediacy of threats, and (3) taxonomy. Priority numbers 1-6 refer only to high-magnitude threats, both imminent (1-3) and non-imminent (4-6). Priority numbers 7-12 refer only to moderate to low-magnitude threats, both imminent (7-9) and non-imminent (10-12). Within the groupings, taxonomy further identifies the LPN (monotypic genus, species, or subspecies/population). In this system, the Kittlitz's Murrelet can only be a 2 (high, imminent), 5 (high, non-imminent), 8 (moderate to low, imminent) or 11 (moderate to low, non-imminent).

In 2004, the species was listed as a Threatened Species Candidate because of the apparent steep and rapid declines in its population. At the time, USFWS concluded that the loss of tidewater glaciers was a "high" threat to the species because of the increased rate of glacier melt. The magnitude of this threat resulted in an LPN of 2 for Kittlitz's Murrelet. Today, USFWS acknowledges there is more uncertainty in the threat's magnitude. For example, the link between melting tidewater glaciers and population trends

is now unclear. The data show that while Kittlitz's Murrelets are associated with these waters during their breeding season, they are also found in areas without tidewater glaciers. The nature of their association and relative importance of glaciers is unclear. Uncertainty also exists in the evaluation of the steep population declines. USFWS continues to be concerned about population declines because the population trend is still negative; however, the severity of this decline is much less certain now because there are very large confidence intervals in the data. New concerns focus on the low reproductive success of the Kittlitz's Murrelets, which is less than 10 percent in some locations. Research is also underway to assess the status and trends of Kittlitz's Murrelet throughout its range. Data are currently available for only a small part of the species' range, and only for a few survey years. Based on information to date, the USFWS has concluded that low reproductive success is a "moderate" threat to the species. Threats to adult survival are also noted from several sources, including fisheries bycatch and predation by Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); these threats are rated as "moderate to low." USFWS is shifting its focus from the receding tidewater glaciers towards evaluating reproductive success as a mechanism for the observed population declines.

For all the aforementioned reasons, the Kittlitz's Murrelet's LPN was changed to an 8 to reflect the change in the *magnitude* of the threats; there is no change in the *imminence* of the threats. In February 2011, PSG wrote to the USFWS in Anchorage (see *Pacific Seabirds* 37[2]:31, 2010), noting that Kittlitz's Murrelet populations "will be most responsive to management actions that reduce direct mortality and improve [adult] survival." PSG also noted that assessing population trends for this highly

mobile species is difficult, and that assessing reproductive success and survival must be considered in their decision on evaluating the listing of this species under the ESA.

For more information on this species, please see the 2012 Report to the Executive Council for the Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee by Michelle Kissling, elsewhere in this issue. For more information on the LPN, please consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Candidate Notice of Review in 76 *Federal Register* 66370, 66374 (26 October 2011).

BAJA CALIFORNIA SEABIRDS GET A BOOST FROM RESTORATION FUND

The Montrose Settlements Restoration Fund (MSRP) and the Luckenbach Trustee Council combined resources to support a \$4 million, five-year program restoring seabird habitat on several Baja California Pacific Islands. Many seabirds cross international borders for nesting and feeding grounds. Seabird species such as the California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*), and Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) nest on these islands. These seabirds face threats from non-native species, nest and burrow destruction in high-use areas, and disturbance from lights and other man-made structures.

Organizations from the US and México, including the National Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación

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de Islas, and the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature, are partnering to implement this restoration program. The restoration partners will conduct habitat restoration, reduce human disturbance and artificial light, and support environmental education in surrounding communities. To increase nesting seabird populations on the islands, scientists will use decoys, mirrors, and broadcast calls and songs to attract seabirds, and will construct artificial nests to improve nesting opportunities.

The partnership will begin work in January 2012 on Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo, Natividad, Asunción, and San Roque Islands, which are located in the northwestern portion of México. These islands support a diverse group of breeding seabirds and are known for high levels of biological diversity.

More information is available at <http://www.montroserestoration.gov/restoration/seabirds/>

MAUI WIND FARM REDUCES PERMITTED INCIDENTAL TAKE OF PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS

On 5 March 2012, the State of Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources approved an Amendment for the Incidental Take License issued to Kaheawa Wind Power on Maui. The amended permit reduces the permitted take of Hawaiian Petrels (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*) from 40 birds to 25, and take of Newell's Shearwaters (*Puffinus newelli*) from 40 birds to 4. Projected take of the Nene Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*) and the Hawaiian hoary bat ('ope'ape'a; *Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) would remain unchanged at 60 and 20 respectively. The Incidental Take License addresses potential take of the listed species that may result when they col-

lide in flight with the wind turbines or related infrastructure during operation of the facility.

The Kaheawa Wind Power company operates Kaheawa Wind I, a 20-turbine, 30-megawatt wind farm on the hills above Ma'alaea, and is in the process of constructing Kaheawa Wind II, an additional 14 wind turbines that will generate 21 megawatts of electricity. When complete, the combined Kaheawa Wind Power I and II will provide enough power to generate electricity for 18,700 homes annually on Maui.

NEW WEBSITE ON CHINESE CRESTED TERN

On 23 March 2012, the BirdLife International Asia Division announced a new website—in three languages—for the critically endangered Chinese Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bernsteini*): http://www.birdlife-asia.org/eng/chinese_crested_tern/

MACQUARIE ERADICATION UPDATE

Eradication efforts have entered their second phase on Australia's sub-antarctic Macquarie Island. With feral domestic cats (*Felis sylvestris*), black rats (*Rattus rattus*) and house mice (*Mus musculus*) either eradicated or severely knocked back, the newest efforts take aim at introduced European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) to control erosion. The use of dogs to find the last of the burrowing lagomorphs is proving successful. Ground-nesting petrels and prions are responding positively to the restoration, especially Grey Petrels (*Procellaria cinerea*), a species that had not bred on the main island in over 100 years. After the cats were removed, Grey Petrels returned and have successfully

fledged young.

For more information, and to receive the Macquarie Dispatch, contact: mieradication@parks.tas.gov.au

PALMYRA ATOLL AND THE GREAT SHIP OF ERADICATION

A March 2012 update from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Island Conservation (IC) suggests that a \$2.7 million project to eradicate rats (*Rattus rattus*) and restore Palmyra Atoll may have been successful. USFWS Biologist Elizabeth Flint reports "absolutely no sign of living rodents" since June 2011, and Island Conservation's Project Manager, Alex Wegmann, says on the project's blog that "initial results are positive." Typically, a site must be rat-free for two years before eradication is considered successful. Neither USFWS or IC is claiming victory just yet; however, since rats reproduce year-round on the tropical atoll, managers will likely be able to declare success later this year.

Palmyra Atoll is a moist Central Pacific atoll that sits 1,778 km south of Honolulu, Hawai'i, at 5.08° N, 162.1° W. The atoll is in the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument, is a USFWS National Wildlife Refuge, and is one of The Nature Conservancy's private preserves. Ten species of seabirds totaling more than 325,000 individuals breed on the atoll, as well as the world's largest terrestrial invertebrate, the coconut crab (*Birgus latro*). In June 2011, led by Island Conservation's Alex Wegmann, an interagency team used helicopters and ground crews to distribute rodenticide and remove hundreds of thousands of ship rats while minimizing ecosystem effects.

The precedent-setting eradication on Palmyra Atoll was one of three restoration projects supported by a unique

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multi-national partnership specializing in eradications on remote islands. The USFWS, Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and several other conservation organizations joined forces in 2011 to complete three island restorations in turn: Palmyra Atoll, Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA, Kiribati) and Henderson Island (UK), the largest tropical or sub-tropical island ever cleared of introduced rats. [The eradication on Henderson was described in *Pacific Seabirds* 38(1-2):15-16.] Carrying two helicopters and extensive eradication equipment, the M/V *Aquila* undertook a remarkable 27,000 km voyage throughout the Pacific Ocean to deliver bait and supplies to three ground-based eradication teams. This international partnership had been discussed for more than 10 years, and it finally succeeded in supporting these very important island restoration efforts.

For more information on the restoration of Palmyra Atoll, please visit: <http://www.protectpalmyra.org/blog/>

CONSERVATION OF SEABIRDS IN CHILEAN PATAGONIA

With a grant from PSG's Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund, Cristián G. Suazo from Chile has developed products that can have a special role in the conservation of seabirds. Working in the Chonos Archipelago with colleague Jaime Ojeda (from the province of Cape Horn), he focused on gathering data on the interactions of seabirds and man.

Cristián's projects identified and evaluated the interaction of seabirds such as the Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) with global conservation problems and local fishing activities. Most important was to highlight the presence of artisanal fisheries in the islands of the Chonos Archipelago, one of the most poorly studied regions in Chile because of its geographic isolation and extreme weather conditions.

The Chonos Archipelago is an important artisanal fishery area for Austral hake (*Merluccius australis*), and this

effort identified the seasonal composition of birds associated with fishing in the complex system of fjords. Among their most important results was finding that Black-browed Albatross had a strong relationship with fisheries discards, especially during the hard conditions of the southern winter.

For more information, see:

Ojeda, J., C.G. Suazo, and J.R. Rau. 2011. Ensamble estacional de aves marinas en la pesquería del palangre artesanal de la merluza austral *Merluccius australis*, en canales subantárticos de Chile (Seasonal seabird assemblages in the artisanal long-line fishery of austral hake *Merluccius australis*, in Chile's sub-Antarctic channels). *Revista de Biología Marina (Chile)*, 46: 443-451. In Spanish. (Available at <http://www.revbiolmar.cl>)

Suazo, C.G., R.P. Schlatter, A.M. Arriagada, L.A. Cabezas and J. Ojeda (in press). Fishermen perceptions and interactions between seabirds and the artisanal fishery in the Chonos' archipelago, Chilean Patagonia. *Oryx*. (The *Oryx* website is: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ORX>).

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Pacific Seabirds welcomes submission of opinion columns on seabirds and related topics. The authors are expressing their opinions, which may or may not be PSG's or the Editor's. The Editor may invite an alternate viewpoint, a note concerning which appears at the end of this column.

WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED ANOTHER SEABIRD GROUP?

Malcolm C. Coulter and Craig S. Harrison

The World Seabird Union recently formed as a new seabird group. The first announcement of creating this organization came only after an "invitation only" meeting was held the first day of the World Seabird Conference by some of its organizers. Readers with a sharp eye might have noticed the announcement a few weeks earlier when it was posted on the conference's web site. At no time during the four years leading up to the World Seabird Conference was there any suggestion by its promoters that they intended to form a new seabird group.

In considering this development, several past efforts at "world" seabird groups have failed, in part because of a lack of funding. In the 1980s, the International Council for Bird Preservation had a International Seabird Working Group, led at different times by George Watson, Ralph Schreiber (*PSG Bulletin* 10[2]:38, 1983) and David Duffy (D. Duffy, pers. comm.); it has long been inactive. The International Ornithological Congress had a Standing Committee for Coordination of Seabird Research, which was led by David Nettleship and John Croxall in the 1990s (*Marine Ornithology* 19:153-155, 1991). That committee began in the mid-1960s and functioned until 1998.

Seabird biologists by their nature are international. Working in the oceans away from land, we deal with each other, sharing geographic and taxonomic information, conservation interests, and even topical interests. We are all in touch on a regular basis. At the 2007 Monterey PSG meeting, an international workshop brought together people interested in boobies (Sulidae) from five countries around the world, all cooperating.

There are many seabird groups around the world, and we are already in touch with each other. Each regional group has an important role in local issues, as well as contributing to the larger global effort. PSG has taken a lead in much of this and successfully hosted the first World Seabird Conference. This type of approach brings us together. But each seabird group has its own identity and responsibilities, its own local strengths and weaknesses. When Malcolm Coulter was editor of the *PSG Bulletin* (now *Pacific Seabirds*), he made a point of contacting all the different seabird groups, set up journal exchanges, and reported on all the other groups. PSG has an extremely effective list-serve. Do we need two list-serves, so people can't remember which one they posted on? This could decrease communication and increase confusion. Verena Gill has spent hundreds of hours over the years ensuring that it works so well, and it has led to many collaborations around the world.

DATA SETS

A primary justification for the formation of the World Seabird Union is to create online databases. This seems to be a solution in search of a problem. Data sets are not ends in themselves, and the number of people who use them as sources of "data" to be manipulated and analyzed, as opposed to sources of "information," is small. We all create data sets when we analyze our information. There are also larger data sets created by groups or governments. Their value depends on how they are constructed, the frequency with which they are updated,

and the ease of access to the data sets. It is the information to be extracted that is most important. The current information in the North Pacific Seabird Colony Database (<http://alaska.fws.gov/mbssp/mbm/northpacificseabirds/colonies/default.htm>) does not inspire confidence. For example, for the 20 seabird species breeding on Buldir Island, the abundance information for 16 of those species is from 1976, with no information on any species more recent than 1979, even though the USFWS has had seabird researchers on the island regularly through 2011.

All data sets have life spans. Whether the information is entered, maintained, and transferred to future computer platforms is critical. It is difficult for any agency or group to ensure that a data set will retain its integrity. In January 2012 the US Government stopped supporting the National Biological Information Infrastructure with little warning. The Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program data that were collected for millions of dollars no longer exist. Other Alaska databases have, until recently, contained data that is decades old. Even if they are now being updated the history of these databases does not inspire confidence that they will be maintained in the future. We question the survivability of these larger data sets without dedicated funding source to ensure their success and longevity. To the extent that the formation of the World Seabird Union is to create online databases, we have serious doubts that this effort will be a success.

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PSG IS A WORLD-WIDE ORGANIZATION WITH A FOCUS ON THE PACIFIC

PSG is already an international seabird group, based on membership (20 countries), past meeting locations (including Canada, Mexico, Japan and Taiwan), and other activities (e.g., the Craig Harrison Conservation Fund, which provides money for seabird conservation in developing countries of the Pacific basin). PSG's Executive Council has always had international representation. Currently, three of the nine regional seats must be filled by non-US residents (Canada, Asia, and Europe/Africa). Even in 1974, PSG had a non-US regional representative (Mexico). At least four Chairs of PSG have been non-US citizens.

PSG's international affiliations are longstanding—it joined the International Council of Bird Preservation in 1982, hosted an international meeting in Honolulu with the Australasian Seabird Group (December 1982); joined the IUCN as an international organization in 1998, and prepared the first directory of members of all major seabird groups in 1984.

PSG has long encouraged seabird research and conservation outside the US. PSG encouraged its Japanese colleagues to create the Japan Seabird Group, acting as a catalyst while recognizing that our colleagues needed to form their own society and work in ways appropriate to Japan. PSG since 1995 has offered Corresponding Memberships to seabird biologists and conservationists throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. Corresponding members do not pay PSG dues; in return, they submit periodic reports on their work. This membership ensures their participation and communication. PSG currently includes participants from five countries, including the Indian Ocean Seabird Group and BirdLife Pacific (Fiji).

PSG has given its Lifetime and Special Achievement Awards to individuals from around the world, including Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, and the UK.

PSG is active in international conservation. PSG has provided policy advice to decision-makers concerning

conservation activities in non-US nations since its inception. PSG has never been strictly confined to the Pacific Ocean; members work every year in the Arctic Ocean and Antarctica. In 1974, PSG issued a detailed policy statement on seabird conservation in Baja California, followed 30 years later with a revised and updated statement. In 1994 PSG co-funded (with the Danish Ornithological Society) a project in the Philippines to produce "Conservation and Management Strategy for Seabirds in the Sulu Sea." In 1995, PSG received the first North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) grant, under which it trained Mexican biologists to remove predators from seabird colonies in Baja California. PSG has endorsed using oil spill trust funds from the US to restore seabirds at colonies in New Zealand. It has advocated conservation of the Ross Sea. In 2007, PSG began a small grant program, whereby biologists in such nations as Fiji, Guatemala, Peru, Chile and Indonesia have received funds to conserve seabirds. PSG also has assisted in conserving the Chinese Crested Tern (*Thalasseusa bernsteini*).

PSG's publications are international. It jointly publishes *Marine Ornithology*, an international peer-reviewed journal of seabird science and conservation, with the African Seabird Group, Australasian Seabird Group, Seabird Group (UK), NGZ (Dutch Seabird Group), and Japan Seabird Group.

PSG has published the following international symposia: *Shorebirds in Marine Environments*, F.A. Pitelka (editor), 1979; *Tropical Seabird Biology*, R.W. Schreiber (editor), 1984; *Marine Birds: Their Feeding Ecology and Commercial Fisheries Relationships*, D.N. Nettleship et al. (editors), 1984; *Ecology and Behavior of Gulls*, J.L. Hand et al. (editors), 1987; *Auks at Sea*, S.G. Sealy (editor), 1990; *Status and Conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in North America*, H. Carter and M.L. Morrison (editors), 1992; *The Status, Ecology, and Conservation of Marine Birds of the North Pacific*, K. Vermeer et al. (editors), 1993; *Biology of Marbled Murrelets—Inland*

and at Sea, S.K. Nelson and S.G. Sealy (editors), 1995; *Seabird Bycatch: Trends, Roadblocks and Solutions*, E.F. Melvin and J.K. Parrish (editors), 2001; *Biology, Status and Conservation of Japanese Seabirds*, N. Oka (editor), 2001; *Seabirds as Indicators of Marine Ecosystems*, W.J. Sydeman et al. (editors), 2007.

PSG published the *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Seabird Restoration Workshop*, Warheit et al. (editors), 1997, which involved oil spill restoration experts from Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand, the UK, and Saudi Arabia.

What new tasks need to be done that PSG could not do or has not done in the past? For example, PSG pioneered the creation of a database of seabird biologists throughout the world in 1984. It would be simple to update and recreate that on PSG's web site. When we need to address international seabird conservation issues, PSG, BirdLife International, and the American Bird Conservancy already work on them together.

COMPETITION AMONG SEABIRD GROUPS COULD BE A DISADVANTAGE

All organizations require volunteers to manage their activities, and the World Seabird Union will divert volunteers who might otherwise work on issues for PSG and the other seabird groups. Its meetings may compete for attendance at other meetings. In 2010, PSG's WSC received \$280,000 in grants and PSG's Long Beach meeting received \$5,000. PSG applied to the Packard Foundation for a grant to support small conservation grants; however, the foundation instead gave a \$50,000 travel grant to the World Seabird Conference. Maintaining databases, an activity for which there seems to be little interest in implementing with volunteer efforts, would take an enormous amount of financial resources. This would inevitably require the World Seabird Union to compete with existing seabird groups for resources. It is naive not to recognize this.

It has taken almost 40 years to build PSG as it stands, and it has taken a tremendous dedication and work by many individuals. Recent PSG members may

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not know that it was not an easy process. PSG is still here because we made the effort in the early years! PSG went through what Malcolm calls the dark ages in the late 1980s, when the chairs did nothing and the only thing keeping the group together were the Treasurer and *PSG Bulletin* Editor. We forget the recent past when PSG could easily have disappeared. PSG may seem to be stable now, but, given problems such as financial losses at the Long Beach (2010) and Hawaii (2012) meetings, PSG could lose its entire assets in a heartbeat.

If there is a need for a new “international” seabird group, why did it form in the US? There are two large, international seabird groups based in the US (PSG and the Waterbird Society). There are almost 200 nations in the United Nations General Assembly. Forming a

new organization in another nation such as UK or the Netherlands would make much more sense. A group whose primary promoters all speak English as their native tongue and who mostly reside in the United States is “international” in name only.

Ultimately there has been no compelling answer to the question of why we need another seabird group. PSG is already working fine. We don’t need to duplicate it. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. It is ironic that many ornithological societies in North America are considering merging, at the same time a splinter seabird group has formed. Local action is how effective conservation gets done, and a global effort that diverts scarce human and financial resources can reduce the viability of regional groups and end up being harmful to seabirds.

NOTE

The World Seabird Union (WSU) has only been able to see a very brief summary of the contents of the article, provided by the Editor. While this was appreciated, without access to the full text of the article, the WSU was unable to respond appropriately. We therefore wished to reserve its right of reply in the next issue of the journal. In the meantime, readers interested in a coherent expression of an alternative viewpoint should consult Hatch (2010). Those interested in the recent work of the newly established consortium of the world’s seabird groups should consult the WSU page on www.seabirds.net.

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David Irons (Chair),
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World Seabird Union

RESEARCH LETTER

THE FIRST ENGLISH NAME AND PROBABLE RECORD OFF NORTH AMERICA OF MURPHY’S PETREL *PTERODROMA ULTIMA*

W.R.P. Bourne

A petrel taken off northwest America during Captain Cook’s third voyage in the spring of 1778, described and named the Black-toed Petrel by John Latham (1785), caused endless confusion (Bourne 1995) until it was eventually named *Pterodroma ultima* by R.C. Murphy (1949). While there is an element of uncertainty in the identification that avoids problems with the scientific nomenclature (Bourne 1995), it seems a

pity that this possible early record and name appear to have escaped recognition in North America (Howell 2012).

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HOW PSG RUNS

This is an occasional section that describes the year-round work of PSG. The first installment appeared in *Pacific Seabirds* 38(1-2), 2011 (see “The Editor’s Page,” earlier in this issue.) This article was adapted from the Vice-Chair for Conservation’s report to the Executive Council for February 2012.

HOW THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKS

Craig S. Harrison, Vice-Chair for Conservation

BACKGROUND

The Conservation Committee keeps PGS members informed about problems that face seabirds. But, at least as important, the Conservation Chair and the committee make PSG’s concerns and expert suggestions known to government agencies, private organizations, and the public.

PSG’s Bylaws state the mission of the Conservation Committee in the job description for the Vice-Chair for Conservation:

The Vice-Chair for Conservation shall be responsible for initiation and coordination of conservation related activities of PSG. . . . Specific duties include: acting for PSG as directed by the Chair and Executive Council on priority conservation issues at public forums and through written comments; chairing the Conservation Committee; reporting the activities of the Conservation Committee to the Executive Council and other duties specified in the PSG Handbook. (Bylaws, Article 3, Section 3, Clause E)

The Conservation Committee is open to all PSG members and meets during PSG’s annual meeting. Working members of the committee are any PSG members: (1) who bring conservation issues to my attention and who draft appropriate correspondence; (2) who review and draft comments on public policy documents that pertain to seabirds; (3) whom I ask for opinions on particular issues because of their expertise; or (4) who attend Conservation Committee meetings.

It is almost impossible to predict the specific issues that the Conservation Committee will address during each year. We ask all PSG members to bring important issues to the Conservation Committee in a timely manner, particularly the Regional Representatives (who should keep a close eye on conservation issues in their respective regions). We also request that members volunteer to review documents and assist the Committee in drafting PSG letters.

PROCESS FOR APPROVING PSG’S CONSERVATION POLICY CORRESPONDENCE

At the annual meeting in February 2012, PSG’s Executive Council adopted a formal procedure for approving our correspondence on conservation policy. I proposed the following as PSG’s official process, in keeping with how PSG has approached the issue for well over a decade. This procedure will be added to PSG’s Handbook:

PSG’s bylaws state that the Vice-Chair for Conservation is responsible for the initiation and coordination of PSG’s conservation-related activities. PSG must speak with a single voice and conservation-related correspondence should normally be signed by the Vice Chair for Conservation. All draft conservation policy correspondence should be reviewed by the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Past Chair for concurrence, any of whom may seek advice from others. Internal PSG review is conducted on a case-by-case basis, the purpose of which is to determine whether there are strongly divergent views.

Often PSG is under a strict deadline to provide information or policy advice to resource managers or regulatory agencies. Correspondence should be drafted well before deadlines to allow adequate time for internal PSG review; insufficient time is not a reason to truncate internal review.

PSG can take positions that are controversial or are not unanimous, but it is vital that PSG’s decision-makers understand all sides of controversial issues so they can accommodate any conflicting viewpoints within PSG as much as possible. Where there are strong differences of opinion it may be preferable for PSG to refrain from taking a position. In such situations, individual PSG members can provide information and policy recommendations to agencies and decision makers on their own behalf.

SUMMARY OF PSG’S CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER 2010-FEBRUARY 2012

In order to show what PSG is doing for conservation, brief accounts of PSG’s activities between the EXCO meetings of September 2010 and February 2012 are listed below. The accounts have been condensed from Craig Harrison’s Report to EXCO for February 2012. Details of most items were presented in “Conservation Reports” in *Pacific Seabirds*, which are referenced.

October 2010: Marine Preserves in Oregon—PSG wrote the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to support the state’s proposal for Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas,

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which was a proposal to help protect and restore nearshore ecosystems. PSG noted that Oregon's approach complements efforts by Washington and California to manage the California Current in an ecosystem-based manner, and that conservation should include all relevant scientific disciplines. Seabirds within the California Current System are an integral component of that ecosystem; we noted that there are over 66 seabird colonies within the areas being considered.

PSG urged Oregon to support research on forage species, consider restricting forage fisheries in protected areas, establish no-disturbance areas around sensitive colonies, protect shorelines to conserve Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*) and Harlequin Ducks (*H. histrionicus*), and manage public lands near colonies to deter scavengers and minimize disturbance. (*Pacific Seabirds* 37[2]:33, 2010)

November 2010: Habitat Conservation Plan on Kauai—PSG wrote the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Honolulu concerning a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is being proposed by Kauai Island Utility Cooperative. The utility plans to spend \$11 million to minimize their incidental take of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); listed seabirds include the endangered Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*), threatened Newell's Shearwater (*Puffinus newelli*), and candidate Band-rumped [Harcourt's] Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). Under the HCP, the utility would be issued an incidental-take permit for three to five years, while studies would improve our knowledge and conservation methods for the species.

When fledgling Newell's Shearwaters and Hawaiian Petrels head to sea, they are attracted to bright lights such as street lamps and hotel lights. Trapped in the glare, the confused birds circle repeatedly until they fall to the ground from exhaustion or strike buildings or wires. There has already been focus on the light attraction issue; the "Save Our Shearwater" program has retrieved and released

30,000 downed shearwaters since the 1980s; lights have been shielded, and lines should be buried or moved inland. However, PSG noted other problems that could be contributing to declines in the Newell's Shearwater, which must be much better explored before they can be mitigated. As one example, it is not known how many birds of all age classes are lost to exotic predators such as feral cats, dogs, rats, pigs and owls. PSG also urged that population estimates for Newell's Shearwaters be improved. Finally, where feasible, a cross-fostering program should be undertaken at suitable predator-free locations throughout Kauai, to establish colonies in already-protected areas.

PSG noted that it has sent numerous letters to USFWS and the Kauai utility during the past decade on these issues—we are frustrated and disturbed that the HCP process has already taken over six years. (*Pacific Seabirds* 37[2]:31, 2010)

February 2011: ESA status of Kittlitz's Murrelet—PSG wrote to USFWS in Anchorage to express concern about the status of Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*). We urged the agency to evaluate this species for listing under the ESA, and to base its decision on the best available scientific information. We noted that biologists who are familiar with the species recognize that it is difficult to estimate trends in numbers, because populations are so scattered and mobile; we stated that reproductive success and survival must be taken into account.

PSG noted that relatively little is known about the life history, marine and terrestrial habitat requirements, ecology, and populations of Kittlitz's Murrelets. The current world population is estimated at 30,900 to 56,800 individuals. The species often feeds during the breeding season in waters associated with tidewater glaciers, but smaller numbers also occur near the Aleutian Islands and in northern Alaska. Migration and the winter range are poorly known, although recent satellite telemetry confirms that birds fly from southeastern Alaska

directly to the southern Bering Sea. Kittlitz's Murrelets do not breed until 2–4 years of age, lay only one egg per clutch, and may not breed every year. Declining populations can be expected to recover slowly, even with effective action to protect them.

PSG wrote that in the short term, Kittlitz's Murrelet populations would be most responsive to management that reduces direct mortality. Seabird bycatch is sampled in all areas where gillnet monitoring has occurred in Alaska, and Kittlitz's Murrelet mortalities have been recorded in both driftnets and set-nets, although more gillnet fisheries need to be sampled. Kittlitz's Murrelets also would benefit from oil-spill prevention and response planning (mortality was recorded from the *Exxon Valdez* spill, among other incidents); reducing human activities that artificially increase populations of predators (e.g. Bald Eagles, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); avoiding disturbance of nesting birds; protecting nesting and foraging habitats; and minimizing disturbance by vessels (such as tourist boats) in favored foraging areas. Finally, we noted that in February 2010 PSG sponsored a symposium to summarize the status and trends of Kittlitz's Murrelet in Alaska and Russia (*Marine Ornithology*, Volume 39, 2011). (*Pacific Seabirds* 37[2]:31, 2010)

April 2011: PSG supports Palmyra rat eradication—PSG wrote to USFWS in Honolulu to support the agency's plan to eradicate ship rats (black rats; *Rattus rattus*) at Palmyra Atoll, for the benefit of seabirds and their habitat. Rats are notorious for preying on the eggs, chicks, and adults of small seabirds. The eradication of rats on Midway Atoll in the 1990s is one example of how seabirds such as Bonin Petrels (*Pterodroma hypoleuca*) and storm-petrels can increase after rat removal. On Palmyra, small and vulnerable species such as Sooty Terns (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) and noddies would almost immediately increase; and eight more seabirds that probably were extirpated by rats could reappear, including three shearwaters, two petrels, a storm-petrel, a noddy, and

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a tern. PSG also reminded USFWS that its Regional Marine Bird Policy includes a goal of “remov[ing] all introduced predators from marine bird colonies on . . . National Wildlife Refuges.”

PSG stated that the project must aim for complete eradication of rats, so we supported aerial broadcast of baits containing the anticoagulant poison brodifacoum. Application of bait from helicopters has improved since a failed attempt to remove rats from Palmyra in 2001-2002; recent successes include projects at Rat Island (Alaska) and Anacapa Island (California).

Palmyra’s bird populations are low during summer, but a small number of non-breeding Bristle-thighed Curlews (*Numenius tahitiensis*) could be exposed to poison baits. We supported mitigation of the risk to curlews through capturing them and keeping them in cages during the application.

The project was carried out in June 2011, with two phases of widespread baiting. Nine curlews were kept in cages and did well. Monitoring for rats (which must be carried out for two years after an application of poison) has so far indicated successful eradication. (*Pacific Seabirds* 37[2]:30, 2010)

August 2011: Nationwide seabird conservation program—I was contacted in by representatives of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to provide my thoughts on the development of NFWF’s five-year, \$40 million dollar Seabird Conservation Program in the Pacific. While I was initially contacted because of my position in PSG and associated experience, it seemed to me that my advice would best be provided in my personal capacity, instead of as a PSG officer. I initially had wide-ranging discussions about various conservation issues, and I followed up in writing on

many suggestions. As part of this process, I asked many other PSG members for their opinions and thoughts. I also provided extensive written comments in December on NFWF’s draft work plan. I think this project has great potential for the conservation of seabirds. Scott Hall summarized the project during the Conservation Committee meeting in February 2012. [This issue was not covered in a Conservation Report.]

OUTCOME OF SOME RECENT ISSUES THAT PSG HAS COMMENTED ON

Wind farm canceled at Radar Ridge, Oregon—In June 2009 and again in June 2010, PSG expressed its concerns to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) about plans by a consortium of electric utilities to build Western Washington’s first major wind farm in habitat that the state had earlier identified as critical for the recovery of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The utility companies cancelled the project in November 2011 due to restrictions that USFWS would have imposed for protection of the murrelet, which the developers considered “untenable.”

PSG had expressed concern to WDNR that the location of this particular facility (and not wind turbine projects in general) would likely result in direct mortality of murrelets nesting adjacent to the facility. We pointed out that in a 1997 HCP for timber harvesting, the state had committed itself to “mak[ing] a significant contribution to maintaining and protecting marbled murrelet populations in western Washington.” We also knew that a state-commissioned Science Report had identified the Radar Ridge area as the single best place to restore Marbled Murrelet habitat on state land. (*Pacific Seabirds* 36[2]:47, 2009; 38(1-2):14, 2011)

Fence protects seabirds at Kaena Point, Hawaii—In early 2011, a predator-exclusion fence was completed at Kaena Point, the northernmost tip of Oahu. Exotic predators have been eradicated from the area, and seabirds that nest in the Kaena Point colony are already benefiting.

PSG wrote to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources at least three times from 2008 to 2011 to support erection of the fence around a state nature reserve. The state approved the fence, and the Packard Foundation has funded predator removal, seabird restoration, and monitoring.

PSG treasurer Lindsay Young and member Eric VanderWerf have been the prime movers behind the fence. It protects nesting seabirds from exotic cats, dogs, rats, and mongooses (*Herpestes javanicus*). Laysan Albatrosses (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*) were already nesting at Kaena Point, but cats and mongooses alone were killing 15 percent of chicks. Populations and productivity of the albatrosses and shearwaters are rising, native plants are benefiting, and additional species such as Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*) and Great Frigatebirds (*Fregata minor*) might colonize the reserve in the future. Endangered monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) also haul out in the reserve. VanderWerf is continuing to study seabird populations and monitor for predator intrusion.

The reserve is open to the public. Entrance is through ingenious “rat-locks”—double doors that cannot both be open at the same time; people are asked to stay on roped-off paths. The result is an outstanding resource, not only for research, but also for public enjoyment and education in a seabird colony that is both protected and easy to access. (*Pacific Seabirds* 36[2]:45, 2009).

MEETING NEWS

PSG'S 2012 ANNUAL MEETING AT OAHU, HAWAII

PSG held its 39th Annual Meeting on 7-10 February 2012 at the Turtle Bay Resort, Haleiwa, on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii. The Chair of the Local Committee was Lindsay Young. The resort was an excellent venue, in outstanding surroundings—towering blue waves beyond white beaches, Laysan Albatrosses passing offshore, tropical trees with exotic songbirds, Pacific Golden-Plovers and Mynahs on the lawn, people swimming and snorkeling . . .

As of the start of the meeting, 283 people had registered to attend. There were 198 presentations—144 oral presentations and 54 posters. A quarter of the total presentations were given by students. The Scientific Chair of the meeting was Chair-Elect Kim Rivera.

The theme of the meeting was “Tropical Seabirds.” Special Paper Sessions included *Tropical Seabird Biology and Conservation* (convened by David Hyrenbach and Scott Shaffer); *Where Seabirds and Tuna Meet: Biology and Management of Subsurface Predator Facilitated Foraging* (Sara Maxwell, Lance Morgan, and Peter Kappes); *Seabirds, Marine Spatial Planning and Impacts of Renewable Energy Development in the California Current Ecosystem* (Jeannette Zamon); and *Biology and Conservation of Hawai'i's Endemic Seabirds* (Helen James, Nick Holmes, Fern Duvall, and Jay Penniman). Many additional papers were presented at thirteen general sessions.

Plenary lectures opened each morning's session: Matthieu LeCorre, “Migration strategies of seabirds of the tropical Indian Ocean”; John Cooper (recipient

of PSG's Lifetime Achievement Award), “Conservation and restoration of islands in the Southern Ocean”; and Jeffrey Polovina, “Recent changes at the top and bottom of the Central North Pacific subtropical ecosystem.”

The Awards Committee (chaired by the Past Chair, Tom Good) granted travel support to three categories of applicants: students from the USA and Canada, students from other countries, and scientists from countries other than the US and Canada. Eleven students from North America received a total of \$3,270: Abe Borker, Katherine Goodenough, Jacquelyn Grace, Peter Kappes, James Lawonn, Christopher Millow, Rachel Orben, Annie Schmidt, and Rebecca Young from the US; and Shanti Davis and Mark Maftai from Canada. Two students from other countries received a total of \$725: Ando Haruko from Japan and Mindaugas Mitkus from Sweden (his place of study; he actually hails from Lithuania). Four other students were offered travel support but were unable to attend.

Four foreign scientists received a total of \$2,000, all from Japan: Mayumi Sato, Misori Takashima, Tatsuya Ura, and Yutaka Yamamoto. A fifth scientist was offered support but was unable to attend. PSG is pleased to have helped these students and scientists attend, even though to a modest extent.

Awards for the best student papers and posters were decided by volunteer judges under Past Chair Tom Good. Abraham Borker received the Best Student Paper Award for “Acoustic activity as an index of relative abundance at seabird colonies: a low-cost and scalable tool for measuring conservation outcomes.” In an unusual decision, two students received Runner-up Student Paper Awards: Andrew Titmus

for “A northwestern Pacific metric of pelagic marine debris: plastic ingestion by black-footed albatross from Kure Atoll, Hawai'i” and Amanda Gladics for “Causes and consequences of highly variable diets for Common Murres off Oregon.” Trevor Joyce received the Best Student Poster Award for “Breeding season marine distribution and spatial habitat use of Newell's Shearwater from Kaua'i, Hawai'i; the Runner-up Student Poster Award went to Yukiko Aoyama for “Seabirds as adhesive seed dispersers of alien and native plants in the oceanic Ogasawara Islands, Japan.”

The banquet was held on the resort's lawn on the evening of 10 February, featuring Hawaiian foods and Polynesian fire dancing. John Cooper was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award (see accompanying article in this issue).

Field trips before and after the conference took in nearby Kaena Point, the colony of Laysan Albatrosses and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters that has recently been protected with a predator-proof fence; hikes to find native songbirds in the southern Koolau mountains; birding on the island of Hawai'i and offshore of Kaua'i; and a week-long visit to Midway Island.

Preparations for the meeting suffered a rude shock back in October 2011: Lindsay learned that the venue she had chosen (and EXCO had approved)—the Makaha Resort—was closing suddenly. Demonstrating remarkable resilience, Lindsay started her search for a hotel all over again, so EXCO was able to approve the new venue and budget in their conference call later that month. Not only did Lindsay put on a wonderful meeting, she outdid all previous Local Chairs by doing much of it twice! (Some more information on the Makaha situation is in “PSG News,” elsewhere in this issue.)

MEETING NEWS



Local Chair Lindsay Young



Student travel awardees



Past Chair Tom Good presents Best Student Poster award to Trevor Joyce . . .



. . .and co-Runner-up Best Student Paper Award to Amanda Gladics



Scientist travel awardees Tatsuya Ura and Yutaka Yamamoto (after the Oahu birding trip)



Pomona College undergraduates at the banquet in Oahu: Neha Savant, Molly Shallman, Kristina McOmber, and Jamie Canepa, with Professor Nina Karnovsky. (Photo by Jennifer Boyce)



Yukiko Aoyama with her Runner-up Student Poster Award

MEETING NEWS

PSG ANNUAL MEETINGS: 2013 AND BEYOND

PSG is turning 40 next year! Planning has commenced for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which will be held 20-24 February in Portland, Oregon. We will celebrate PSG's 40th at the downtown Hilton. The hotel's website is: http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/PDXPHHH-Hilton-Portland-Executive-Tower-Oregon/index.do

Keep an eye on the PSG website (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) for

updates on the program, abstract submission details, and information about registration, lodging, field trips, and festivities.

—**Holly Freifeld, Local Committee Chair for PSG 2013**

For PSG 2014, we have a proposal for Juneau, Alaska from Adrian Gall, and an informal proposal for the Monterey area from Hannah Nevins and Josh Adams. EXCO has not yet decided between them.

We are still in the thinking stage for PSG 2015. Discussions of late have emphasized that we would be best served by meeting in the near future near our core membership areas (to “recover” from meetings in Japan, Hawaii, and Victoria). Semi-Ah-Moo in Blaine, Washington has expressed a desire to have us back. The greater Seattle area is another possibility. Other thoughts include San Diego/La Jolla, California and the San Francisco Bay area.

—**Tom Good, Past Chair, 2010-2012**

THE CHAIR'S PAGE

Pat Jodice

This is the Chair's report to PSG members on PSG's condition and accomplishments during his tenure (September 2010 to February 2012). It was written as his report to the Executive Council at the recent Annual Meeting (February 2012 in Oahu), but it is equally addressed to everyone else.

My term as PSG Chair ran from September 2010 to February 2012. The term began with PSG's 38th Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC, concurrently with the World Seabird Conference. The WSC was considered quite successful by most, with over 800 attendees from more than 40 countries. PSG members had a critical role in developing the meeting and in presenting scientific products at the meeting. I think it is safe to say that the global seabird community observed first-hand how PSG is such a strong proponent for the pursuit of outstanding science and timely conservation, as it pertains to seabirds and their habitats.

Due to the extended nature of the Chair's term, and to help with the passing of information between past, current, and incoming Chairs, a monthly conference call was established. Past Chair Tom

Good, Chair-Elect Kim Rivera, and I arranged conference calls in most months. The calls kept us current on issues and provided the current and incoming Chairs with the perspective of the Past Chair. I found these calls to be very valuable and strongly recommend that they be continued by future Chairs. It may be worth adding the Secretary to the calls so that minutes can be duly recorded.

The various committees of PSG continue to conduct important business throughout the year and their stability needs to be maintained. We discussed during the year the appointment of assistant Coordinators to each committee, although we have not yet completely achieved this. Because of the nature of our work we often find that a committee's Coordinator is “in the field” for an extended period of time. In instances

such as that, and to prepare for either the planned or unplanned need to hand over duties to a new leader, an Assistant Coordinator would be a valuable asset. (Other titles could be used, such as associate, vice, etc.) Pursuing such appointments during the 2012–13 term appears to be a worthwhile endeavor.

One of the most consistent activities for the PSG during the year is the preparation of policy statements. Craig Harrison has taken on this task for years and continues to excel at it, to the point where we may not always realize the quality and quantity of effort Craig invests in these statements; i.e., we just take his timely and well-developed statements for granted. During the 2010–2012 term, Craig and I discussed the need for written description of the process he uses to develop these policy statements, so that

THE CHAIR'S PAGE

PSG members can more fully understand the importance of his conservation work and the timeline needed for it. Craig developed such a statement, which is included in his report (Vice-Chair for Conservation). It will be reviewed at the EXCO meeting and proposed for inclusion in the Handbook. [*Editor's note:* see "How the Conservation Committee Works," above.]

Annual Meetings continue to be a primary focus each year—their location, and budgets and income. In 2010, PSG approved the formation of a Conference Coordinating Committee to support Local Chairs, and especially to examine all hotel contracts prior to signing. Enhanced oversight of meeting plans, such as that provided by this committee, should improve our chances of avoiding financial losses due to poorly structured conference contracts. The committee should also allow for improved consistency in information transfer between years and local chairs. During the planning stages of the 2012 Annual Meeting, our original location, Makaha, went out of business. We lost our deposit and, as of the preparation of this report, have yet to have that deposit refunded. Efforts are being made to recover this deposit; the new Chair and EXCO need to continue investing time and effort in this.

PSG continues to be a key supporter of *Marine Ornithology*. Editor-in-Chief Tony Gaston, along with his team of Associate Editors, continues to do an admirable job producing the journal and handling manuscripts. The journal continues to focus on the improvement of the manuscripts it receives, so as to produce quality science that is readily

available to the seabird community. Unfortunately, Tony will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief, so a search committee will be formed to conduct the search for a new Editor. This is an important task that deserves thoughtful deliberation during the 2012-2013 term.

Much energy has been invested during 2012 in issues surrounding the financial relationship between the PSG and the World Seabird Union. I will not detail the issues here; instead, I choose to focus on ideas that may lessen the chances of divisive issues arising in the future.

- PSG would benefit from increased attention to detail by members of EXCO during their meetings, and also immediately following meetings. Attention needs to be paid to the quality and accuracy of the minutes. Approval of the prior meeting's minutes is a required duty at each EXCO meeting. Although approval tends to seem like a routine task, this duty actually needs to be undertaken with great care and in a timely fashion. Minutes should be produced and reviewed soon after meetings, and questions or changes should be submitted, even if the vote for approval will be several months in the future.
- While anticipating the unexpected is never easy, EXCO members need to pay more attention to the entire range of potential outcomes when crafting motions and proposals—not just the range of likely or expected outcomes. Similarly, all EXCO members have a responsibility to review treasurer's reports and ask questions regarding expenditures,

proposed allocation of funds, and PSG's financial stability.

- In short, officers and EXCO members need to see their commitment to PSG as a regular part of their career, not just as something they work on immediately before board meetings. This culture of commitment and investment needs to be fostered by current EXCO officers and board members, so that incoming officers and board members know what is expected of them.

Throughout the 2010-2012 term, various issues arose that made it apparent our organization would benefit from some self-reflection and training. Such efforts are not short-term fixes to problems, but rather long-term solutions. We need to take action towards better board management, improved organizational structure, and overall program stability. In an effort to achieve these goals, we will be discussing the need for a Board Retreat and Training Session during the 2012-2013 term. While we would only be able to support a limited number of attendees at such a training session, the goal would be to have those individuals act as mentors for incoming EXCO members. In so doing, current EXCO members would hopefully impart an improved understanding of their roles and responsibilities to each new rotation of EXCO members.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the PSG as Chair for the past 17 months, and I look forward to serving the organization as Past-Chair in the year to come. I have complete faith that our Chair-Elect, Kim Rivera, will lead our organization in a positive and professional manner.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FY 2010-2011 AND BUDGET FOR FY 2011-2012

Ron LeValley, Treasurer

PSG's fiscal year runs from 1 October to 30 September. This report describes our membership, assets, and accounting for the fiscal year that ended 30 September 2011. The draft budget for the fiscal year that ends in September 2012 was approved by EXCO at its February 2012 meeting. The accounting also includes an update that reflects financial decisions made at the same meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has remained steady. We continue to gather many new members at our annual meetings. We continue to lose members each year after the meeting that they attend! Membership renewals will go out in January 2012 along with the notification of the *Pacific Seabirds* recent issue.

As of December 20, PSG membership was:

	2011	2010
Life Members	81	80
Regular and Family	371	383
Student	109	84
Corresponding	7	7
Honorary	1	1 (John Cooper)
Total	569	555

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

PSG maintains a number of bank accounts. The operating funds are kept in a two regular checking accounts.

Regular Checking	September 30, 2010	\$78,227.61
	September 30, 2011	\$102,079.24
	January 22, 2012	\$192,992.54

Our Investment funds (Life Memberships and other specially designated monies) are kept in a mutual fund managed by Neuberger and Berman.

Investment Funds	September 30, 2010	\$126,275.74
	September 30, 2011	\$119,879.53
	January 22, 2012	\$132,010.16

A PayPal account is used to accept membership payments, contributions and other monies by credit card.

PayPal Account	September 30, 2010	\$498.32
	September 30, 2011	\$15,100.28
	January 22, 2012	\$1,641.62

Vivian Mendenhall maintains an account to facilitate the printing and mailing of *Pacific Seabirds*.

<i>Pacific Seabirds</i> balance as of	September 30, 2010	\$1,145.10
	September 30, 2011	\$5,640.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Financial Accounts, continued)

Total Assets as of September 30, 2010	\$206,146.77
Total Assets as of September 30, 2011	\$242,699.05
(Total Assets as of January 22, 2012—does not include expenses of Oahu meeting)	\$329,989.84

PSG ACCOUNTS AS OF 22 JANUARY 2012

(Modified to reflect disbursements through 10 February 2012; see “Expenses” and Note 16, below)

Cash on Hand Accounts

Chase Checking	\$192,742.89
North Valley Bank Checking	\$249.65
PayPal	\$1,641.62
Neuberger Berman Investments	\$135,355.68

Total	\$329,989.84
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Allocated Funds

Craig Harrison Conservation Fund	\$7,464.18
Endowment Fund	\$135,355.68
<i>Marine Ornithology</i>	\$3,877.48
PSG 2012 Hawaii	\$85,045.83
Student Travel Fund	\$825.95
Seabirds.net, WSC Publications, Databases	\$37,000.00
World Seabird Conference “Seed Money”	\$12,000.00

Total	\$281,569.12
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Unallocated Funds	\$48,420.72
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TREASURER'S REPORT

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET

		Proposed 2010-2011	Actual 2010-2011	Proposed 2011-2012	Notes
INCOME					
	Conservation Fund		\$1,152.18		1
	Endowment Fund				2
	Life Membership		\$1,620.00		
	Membership	\$10,000.00	\$8,883.18	\$10,000.00	
	Institutional Subscriptions		\$525.00	\$500.00	
	Books Publications	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Tax Refund		\$6,618.68		3
	General Fund		\$19,751.00		4
	<i>Marine Ornithology</i>		\$2,470.00	\$1,500.00	5
	Student Travel		\$50.00	\$500.00	6
	Long Beach Meeting		\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	7
	Oahu Meeting		\$18,323.36		8
	Misc				
	World Seabird Conference	\$11,000.00	\$94,095.15	\$59,092.37	
	Total	\$21,000.00	\$162,488.55	\$80,592.37	
EXPENSES					
	Bank Charge	(\$1,500.00)	(\$780.45)	(\$1,500.00)	9
	Conservation Fund		(\$6,110.00)		
	Dues And Subscriptions	(\$1,400.00)	(\$1,998.53)	(\$2,000.00)	10
	Insurance	(\$1,400.00)	(\$1,400.00)	(\$1,500.00)	
	2012 Oahu Meeting		(\$22,472.16)		11
	Misc	(\$500.00)		(\$500.00)	
	<i>Marine Ornithology</i>		(\$8,191.99)	(\$4,000.00)	12
	Office Supplies	(\$75.00)		(\$75.00)	
	Postage	(\$200.00)	(\$106.00)	(\$100.00)	
	Professional Fees	(\$1,000.00)	(\$575.00)	(\$750.00)	
	Publications		(\$6,500.00)	(\$6,500.00)	13
	Student Travel			(\$850.00)	14
	State Taxes	(\$20.00)	(\$133.27)	(\$150.00)	
	Federal Taxes		(\$6,618.68)		15
	Chair's Discretionary Funds	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	
	Lifetime Achievement Awards		\$0.00	(\$4,000.00)	
	Telephone		\$0.00		

TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>(Expenses, continued)</i>				
	WSU products	\$0.00	(\$37,000.00)	
	World Seabird Conference 2010	(\$83,792.98)		16
	Total	(\$7,095.00)	(\$138,679.06)	(\$59,925.00)
OVERALL		\$13,905.00	\$23,809.49	\$20,667.37
TOTAL				

Notes to accounting and budget:

1. See Conservation Fund Report
2. Miscellaneous donations in conjunction with dues payments
3. Refund received after appealing penalty from not filing taxes on time.
4. Income From World Seabird Conference to PSG
5. Income through PayPal account for Subscriptions and Page Charges
6. Income from Silent Auction and donations.
7. Income received from the Long Beach meeting (NOTE: \$9,000 more is coming.)
8. Based on early budget; includes Midway trip. (NOTE: This will likely change!)
9. Mostly PayPal fees.
10. IUCN, Ornithological Council
11. Based on present income and includes Midway trip. (NOTE: This will likely change!)
12. Payment after PayPal charges from Subscriptions and Page Charges
13. *Pacific Seabirds*
14. Amount on hand for Oahu meeting
15. Tax Penalty paid for not filing; refunded (see "income," above)
16. Disbursed at EXCO meeting in February 2012, as contracts for WSU publications, databases, & Seabird.net

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

Ron LeValley, Kenneth Briggs, and Malcolm Coulter, Trustees

PSG's Endowment Fund provides a core of funds for supporting the production of publications, as provided in the Bylaws (Article VI, Section 3). The fund is managed by three trustees, one of whom is the Treasurer. It receives its money from Life Memberships, and from donations, bequests, and other sources as decided by EXCO. The Trustees invest the money, and they decide how much is available each year for expenditure.

The Trustees have developed a conservative policy for deciding how much money is available for expenditure each year. Their intention is to ensure that the principal of the Endowment Fund is protected, in spite of fluctuations in the value of securities in which the fund is invested. Briefly, no money will be spent if the fund's value at the end of PSG's fiscal year is less than \$100,000 in 2004 dollars (the year in which it first reached \$100,000). For this analysis, the Trustees convert the Fund's actual value on 30 September to 2004 dollars by use of a federal inflation index. As an additional protection, the Trustees allow no more than 6% of the Fund's value for expenditure each year. The Trustees explained these methods in detail in *Pacific Seabirds* 37(1):17-18, Spring 2010.

If funds are available for expenditure, actual use of the money is recommended by the Communications Committee and decided by EXCO. (PSG's publications are listed near the back of each *Pacific Seabirds* issue.)

Endowment Fund Value	30 September 2010	\$146,058.87
Income to fund		
Life Memberships		\$1,620.00
Other (general contributions)		\$0.00
Unrealized gains/losses (change in value of investments)		(\$27,499.34)
Endowment Fund value	30 September 2011	\$119,879.53

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR EXPENDITURE

Using the methodology described above, the Endowment Fund dropped below the threshold (\$100,000 in 2004 dollars), and so no money was available for publications.

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND LONG-TERM PROJECTS

Since actual decisions on spending money from the Endowment Fund (if any is available for expenditure) are made by EXCO, the Trustees express no opinion here concerning the scientific merit of any proposed publications. We note that the availability of funds does not mean that any funds should actually be spent unless meritorious publication projects have been proposed. There are issues that would be related to expensive long-term projects, if such projects were proposed; we have not addressed these concerns here, but will do so if and when they arise. However, we strongly recommend that large projects seek co-funding from other sources.

PSG COMMITTEE REPORTS TO EXCO

FEBRUARY 2012

MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

Tony Gaston, Managing Editor/Editor-in-Chief

ORGANIZATION

In 2011 Scott Hatch, who had been our North American Editor since 2005, decided to call it quits. Scott was a really exceptional editor and I would like to pay fulsome tribute to the time and energy that he devoted to the journal. I found myself invariably in agreement with his editorial decisions, and I myself became a little lazy about editing because papers coming via Scott were always in an excellent state with respect to formatting and style, and were virtually typo-free. During his tenure, Scott probably handled about half the papers flowing through *Marine Ornithology* because we had, and continue to have, a preponderance of papers from North America. His was a big job and he did it splendidly. If I have done one thing right in managing *Marine Ornithology*, it was inviting Scott to be an editor.

Scott's departure coincided with my own decision to alter the structure of the journal away from the "Regional Editor" model, in which I was mainly a Managing Editor, towards a more typical structure with an Editor-in-Chief and a list of Associate Editors (AEs). Instead of papers being submitted to Regional Editors, under the new structure they all come to me and I assign them to Associates. The AEs then return them to me for a final decision. This system, already in action, should improve the consistency of decision-making, and also should short-circuit the system by turning back papers that clearly are inadequately prepared or off-topic.

The restructuring was mentioned in last year's report to PSG's EXCO. It was then discussed at a lunchtime meeting of the editors during the World Seabird Conference in September, where it met with general agreement. Tony Diamond, Rob Barrett and Peter Dann remain from

the previous structure, becoming Associate Editors, while Alan Burger has shifted from being Review Editor to becoming an Associate Editor. In addition, I recruited Sebastien Descamps (Norsk Polar Institute, Norway), Peter Evans (Seawatch Foundation, UK), Nina Karnovsky (Pomona College, CA), Kathy Kuletz (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska) and Yan Ropert-Coudert (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Strasburg, France) as additional AEs. Pat Baird (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC) has taken over as Book Review Editor. These changes will be evident with the next volume year (Volume 40, 2012) and will be accompanied by a change in cover format and perhaps some website tweaking.

Another change I have not reported, but which may be significant, is that our technical editor since 2004, Ann Fotheringham-Brown, resigned in 2010. Her successor, Carolyn Brown, another Ottawa-based editor, worked previously with Canada's National Research Council Journals and also acts as a publishing consultant. She has been a good source of advice on matters other than editing, so getting her participation (suggested by Ann) may have been a lucky break.

Recently, Akiko Shoji, my former graduate student, has been helping me with rounding up page charges, as well as with mailing.

SUMMARY OF RECENT ISSUES

After a very bumper volume year in 2009, with 3 issues and 297 pages published, the 2010 year was much smaller, only 139 pages. This taught me a lesson that it is better to spread things out a bit, rather than trying to cram everything on hand into every issue. However, 2011 saw us back up to our maximum size with 283 pages in two issues. Material in the

pipe suggests that we will be able to produce another good issue in April 2012. The size of the journal has increased from an average of 136 pages in the decade before we took over, to an average of 230 pages in the last four years. However, the increase is greater than that, because the current format allows for more words per page than the earlier one. In 2011 we published more than 2,000,000 words.

The size of the journal is not really a great way to evaluate our success (although it probably is a good indicator of the amount of work involved). To date, we have refused relatively few papers, preferring instead to put time and effort into tutoring weaker authors to produce something useful. If we can afford this approach, I would like to continue it, because that is part of our mission—to increase the availability of information on seabirds. I think we should continue to publish anything on seabirds that constitutes sound, non-trivial science. [See Table and Figure on following pages.]

IMPACT

Because we are not listed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), *Marine Ornithology* still does not have a citation index from them. However, other indices suggest that we are doing better than you might anticipate. Scimago (www.scimagojr.com) produces a rather different index of impact (SJR Index) that gives MO a score of 0.046. This compares with 0.079 for *Condor*, 0.044 for *Bird Conservation International* and 0.041 for *Waterbirds*. We rank in the second quartile of both their "Oceanography" and "Animal Science and Zoology" lists, so there are many, many journals below us. We still do not have our papers posted on the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA)—I have left this to Patrick Jodice, who has made little headway to date.

REPORTS TO EXCO • *Marine Ornithology*

Papers published in *Marine Ornithology*, Volumes 31-39, by type and number of authors, and pages per issue.

Issue	Total pages	Forum	Papers	Short notes	Reviews	Authors
31(1)	94	0	11	1	2	36
31(2)	118	0	15	0	0	44
2003 combined	212	0	26	1	2	
32(1)	120	0	11	6	1	61
32(2)	84	0	5	6	2	33
2004 combined	204	0	16	12	3	
33(1)	73	1	7	5	1	44
33(2)	131	1	13	3	5	61
2005 combined	204	2	20	8	6	
34(1)	86	1	8	5	3	42
34(2)	83	0	12	1	1	33
2006 combined	169	1	20	6	4	
35(1)	88	0	9	3	4	42
35(2)	67	0	8	0	3	22
2007 combined	155	0	17	3	7	
36(1)	82	1	8	3	4	34
36(2)	120	0	12	5	3	57
2008 combined	202	1	20	8	7	
37(1)	95	1	11	0	2	41
37(2)	86	1	11	0	0	25
37(3)	113	2	13	8	1	63
2009 combined	297	4	35	8	3	
38(1)	67	1	7	3	4	39
38(2)	72	1	8	2	3	42
2010 combined	139	2	15	5	7	
39(1)	145	1	13	3	4	75
39(2)	138	0	15	4	4	60
2011 combined	283	1	28	7	8	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Currently, *Marine Ornithology* is being sent to 27 individual and 42 institutional subscribers. In addition, 29 *gratis* copies are mailed to collaborators, deposit libraries, editors and one life member (we no longer offer a life membership). This means a total mailing of

98 copies. I print 130 copies of each issue to ensure I have a stock of back issues, but I might reduce that to 120, as there is not much demand for back issues. I can and do increase the print run where symposia are involved and the symposium organizers pay for additional copies. *Marine Ornithology* currently goes to 53

permanent institutions (either subscribers or deposit libraries) in the following countries: US (24), UK (9), Australia (3), South Africa (4), France (1), Italy (2), Netherlands (2), New Zealand (3), Norway (1), Poland (2), and Germany (2). The numbers have been pretty stable since 2007, when the raising of rates for South African subscribers caused the shedding of quite a few.

BUDGET

Starting with the 2009 volume year and getting more insistent as we proceed, I have been requesting page charges. We currently charge \$30 per page, and an additional \$70 if there is color on the page. In the past two years approximately 50% of non-symposium authors paid—most of those with agency affiliations and a few academics. In addition, all costs were found by the conveners to cover the last three symposia published: Salish Sea (2009), Indian Ocean Seabirds (2009), and Kittlitz's Murrelet (2011). Consequently, although I budget with a view to asking PSG for up to \$6000 per annum, we actually have not requested any money from PSG since 2008, when we received \$3000. On average we have received approximately \$2000 per year from PSG since the group took over responsibility for MO. Given that I work on the idea that supporting societies will contribute \$1.00 per member per year, and that PSG membership sits around 500, the additional cost to PSG has been only about \$1500 per year.

The strength of the Canadian dollar continues to be a source of concern, as all our income is in US dollars, while most of the expenses are in Canadian dollars. The Canadian dollar has been close to or above parity with the US dollar all of the past year. If this continues, I may raise the subscription rates again in 2013 and probably the page charges as well.

Another recent innovation has been the use of PayPal for subscriptions and page charges. These payments go through the PSG Treasurer, as I do not want to set up a PayPal account myself. The main effect of this innovation is that we have added a few individual

subscribers. It remains to be seen whether these continue, or whether people mainly wanted to get copies of issues in which they had written papers. There is a slight falling off in the number of Institutional subscribers, but this loss of income has been counterbalanced by an increase in revenue from page charges.

I cannot provide a decent statement of the finances right now because the costs of layout and printing for the past two issues still have not been invoiced. Suffice it to say that I have enough on hand to pay those bills and to produce the first issue for 2012, so I do not envisage any problems. The books (i.e., spreadsheets) are available for inspection any time.

THE WEBSITE

I continue to be most grateful to Ben Saenz, our *pro bono* webmaster, for his very efficient handling of the web site.

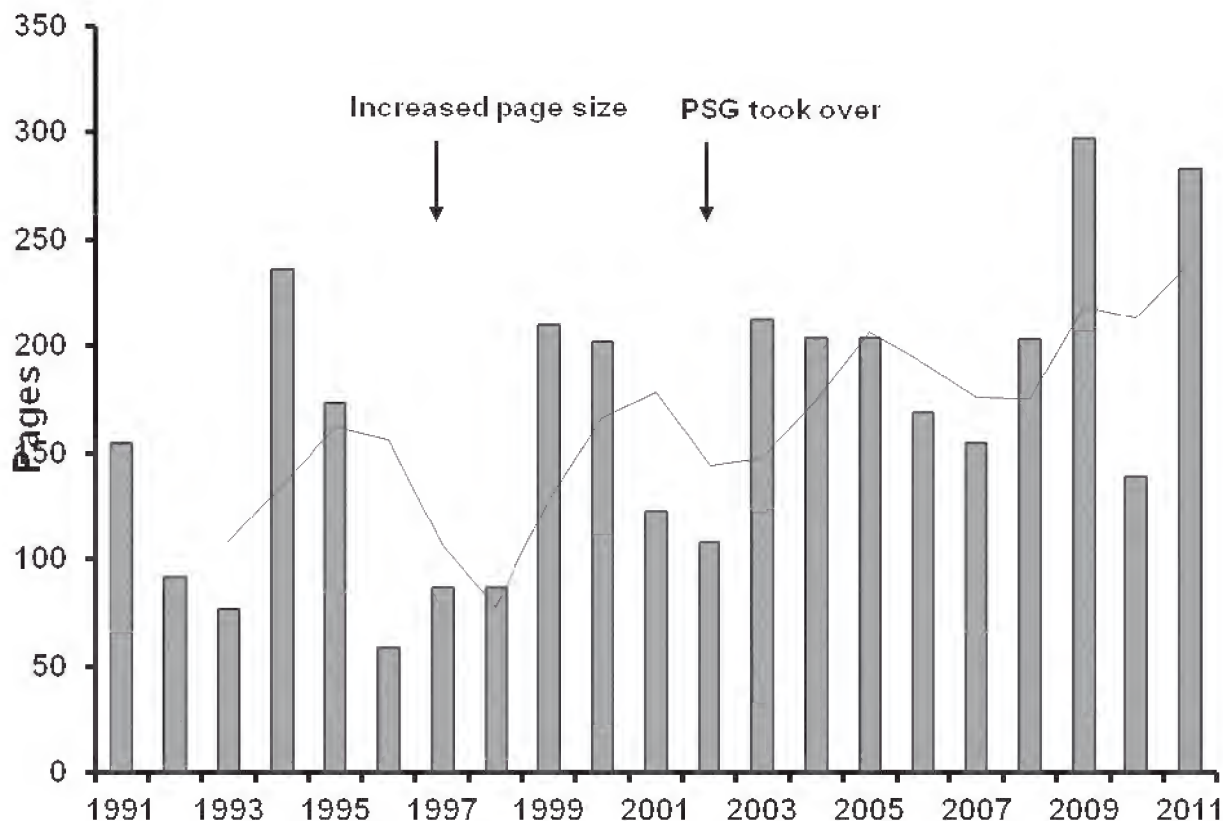
THE FUTURE

I approached PSG and other supporting Societies to ask if they wanted a review. In my last report, I invited PSG to develop such a review in 2011. To date, no one has showed any interest in doing so, so there has been no outside review. The journal is still far short of where I would like to see it. I would like to see posting of all papers at the time of acceptance, more support from advertising and page charges, acceptance by ISI, and proper citation indexing. If we can get ISI recognition we have a chance to attract more good quality papers and raise the standard of the science we publish. However, we do want to continue to be an outlet for all legitimate contributions on seabirds, irrespective of their contribution to science at large. In the longer term this may mean expanding the size of the journal.

If the journal is to be expanded much beyond its current size, I think we shall need to take a more professional

approach. To date, the only people being paid are the technical editor (Carolyn Brown), the layout team (Reber Creative) and the printers. I suspect that some financial inducement might be necessary to attract a suitable Editor-in-Chief if he/she is to do more than I have. Also, we may need to start paying our webmaster, although Ben has never hinted at being overworked. However, if we went to post-on-acceptance, he probably would need to put aside more time. If we want to spend more, we shall have to generate more revenue. Other options on the table include dropping the printed issue, adopting an online review process (presumably through one of the existing providers), and affiliation with WSU (if such an organization actually appears).

Although I get some satisfaction in editing and producing *Marine Ornithology*, I recognize that the journal would probably benefit from a more dynamic Editor-in-Chief. I find myself rather less active and engaged than I used to be.



Changes in numbers of pages published in *Marine Ornithology* since 1991.

Even if I still had all my youthful energy intact, after eleven years, I am certain that a change at the top would be beneficial for the Journal. It is in the nature of things that change is best achieved by bringing in new blood.

Consequently, I would like to make a strong recommendation to the PSG EXCO that you identify and recruit a new Editor-in-Chief as of 2013. [Editor's note: A search committee was formed in February 2012.] There might be an advantage to keeping the position in North America, but we don't have to be inflexible on that. As I indicated before, I would be happy to continue doing the finances for the journal, which would remove one less-agreeable aspect from the Editor's job, making it more attractive to candidates. I would also be happy to have an overlap year to accustom the new editor to the tasks involved.

Expanding and upgrading the journal, along with generating the necessary additional revenue, are not trivial tasks.

They really need to be undertaken within the context of a general review of PSG's publications. I think that there are two options: (1) for PSG, via the publications committee, to take a more active role in managing the journal; or (2) for PSG to formally "spin off" *Marine Ornithology*, with the journal constituted as an independent foundation or incorporated as a business. Right now the publisher is still registered as the "African Seabird Group" and the country of publication is South Africa. We probably should do something about that.

To date, PSG's EXCO has pretty much had a free ride, as far as thinking about or organizing *Marine Ornithology*. However, whatever future direction *Marine Ornithology* takes, I think it is up to PSG to provide the engine. I would like the EXCO to convene a publications workshop at the 2013 Annual Meeting where these matters can be discussed. It would be essential to have the new Editor-in-Chief selected and present at

that time, so this gives a good deadline to aim for. We have a good foundation now—so let's really make this thing go.

And please, can we have some reaction to this report?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to myself, the editorial team for 2010-11 was: Scott Hatch of USA (North America and Asia), Tony Diamond of Canada (N America east coast and Caribbean), Rob Barrett of Norway (Europe), and Peter Dann of Australia (Southern Hemisphere). Alan Burger was Review Editor. I would like to thank them all for their excellent efforts. I would also like to offer sincere thanks (again) to Ben Saentz, our webmaster, to Carolyn Brown, our technical editor, and to Reber Creative, our layout team. Perhaps some thanks could be recorded at PSG's Annual Meeting for these individuals.

PACIFIC SEABIRDS

Vivian Mendenhall, Editor

ISSUES OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS PUBLISHED, SEPTEMBER 2010-FEBRUARY 2012

- Volume 37, number 1, Spring 2010 (published June 2011). 288 hard copies were mailed—200 domestic, 88 foreign. Costs were \$1371.61 for printing and mail handling, \$444.72 for postage. The printing company initially overlooked the Institutions sheet of the mailing list (the only time in 21 issues they've done this); they paid for expedited mailing of those copies.
- Volume 37, number 2, Fall 2010 (published December 2011). 288 hard copies were mailed—200 domestic, 88 foreign. Costs were \$1,921.10 for printing and mail handling; postage cost \$126.13 for domestic mailing, \$372.17 for non-U.S. copies.

- Volume 38, combined issue with numbers 1 and 2, Spring and Fall 2011 (published February 2012). The issue will be printed and mailed the week of our meeting. Costs are not known yet. This double issue should catch *Pacific Seabirds* up with the real-life year and season; I will try to keep it that way.

PROPOSED EDITORIAL POLICY

I propose to include the following in the journal: "*Pacific Seabirds* reflects any formally stated policies of PSG's Executive Council. On issues for which such a policy has not been expressed, the journal aims for an unbiased presentation of all points of view."

There have been a few concerns over the years about articles or "Forum" opinion columns that were critical of a person, agency, or other entity, and

that presented only one side of a story. It was suggested in such a case that the Editor should let the "target" of the criticisms know before the manuscript was published, and perhaps invite an article that would present "the other side." After discussing the options with professional journalists, I have decided to follow those suggestions.

It is common for a journal or magazine to invite a rebuttal to a letter that disagrees with a published piece (e.g., *Condor* 113(4):709-712, 2011; *Scientific American* 305(6):8, December 2011).

This issue of *Pacific Seabirds* contains an opinion piece on whether a new international seabird group should exist. The column appears alongside a statement that the relevant people have been invited to reply, and that if they do, their response will appear in a future issue.

A FEW MINOR PROBLEMS

Several Regional Representatives didn't pay attention to my deadline for 2011 Reports, which is why only half of the reports appeared in the recent issue. I realize I also have taken deadlines lightly in recent years, so there's an excuse. But I plan to be more dogmatic in the future.

I'll try in the future to notify contributors early and often.

About 10 long-time members seem to have changed their street address but never notified PSG. They are not getting the journal, obviously. Two cases may be due to our mistake or the post office's, but the others are real. (Note: the U.S. post office will only forward mail for a year;

I have no idea what other countries' post offices do.) We don't have time to pursue all oblivious members for their updates.

I wish the Post Office wouldn't paste the "Undeliverable" sticker over the original address. That means I have no idea who the addressee was. (Sometimes I can deduce the name by peering through the back of the envelope . . .)

SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Scott Hatch, Committee Coordinator

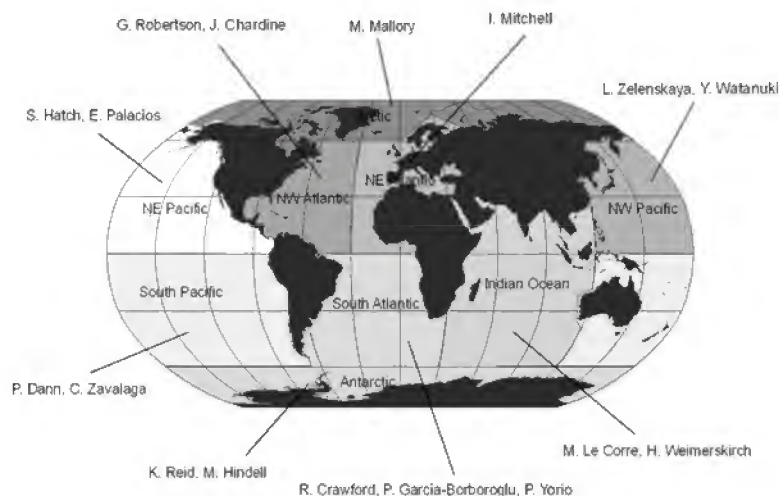
The Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) is fully implemented on the World Wide Web, including interfaces for contributor, user, and database administrator. The database can be accessed at <http://seabirds.usgs.gov>. It currently contains 20,934 observations of seabird population parameters (numbers, breeding success, phenology, survival, and others), in 2,954 time series. Most of those data (18,281 observations in 2950 time series) were converted to "Public" record status during 2011. The database currently has 27 registered data contributors and 66 registered users.

The previous meeting of the Seabird Monitoring Committee was held in conjunction with the World Seabird Conference in Victoria, BC, in September 2010.

Committee members at the conference helped organize and present a number of workshops that were intended to promote the creation of world seabird databases: World Seabird Monitoring Database (WSMD), World Seabird Colony Register (WSCR), World Pelagic Surveys Database (WPSD), World Seabird Tracking Database (WSTD), and World Seabird Trophic Studies Database (WSTSD). The goal for the seabird monitoring component is an expansion of the general approach exemplified in the PSMD to include the efforts of seabird researchers globally. This global project is being pursued under the auspices of the World Seabird Union (WSU), a consortium of regional seabird organizations, including

the Pacific Seabird Group and approximately 20 others worldwide. The WSU will sponsor Seabirds.net, a website that is being designed to accommodate the shared aspirations of all seabird professionals, especially the creation and maintenance of world seabird databases. A version of the PSMD, under the name World Seabird Monitoring Database, will soon be installed on Seabirds.net as a pilot project for trial and evaluation.

An important initial step in creating a global database will be a comprehensive inventory of all past and ongoing effort to monitor population parameters of the world's seabirds. Regional Coordinators, with areas of geographic responsibility as shown on the attached map, have been recruited to lead this initiative.



World Seabird Monitoring Database Regional Coordinating Committee

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Michelle L. Kissling, Coordinator

The Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (KMTC) was formed in 2008 to begin addressing concerns related to the status and conservation of this rare seabird. The Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*; KIMU) is currently listed as a candidate under the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the KMTC is to: (1) act as a technical authority on the status, distribution, and life history of the KIMU; (2) identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) address conservation problems related to the KIMU; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UPDATES

(1) The KMTC last met on 19 November 2010 in conjunction with the Alaska Bird Conference in Anchorage. Twenty-nine members participated (five over the phone). Meeting minutes are available on request.

(2) The proceedings of the symposium titled "Population status and trends of the Kittlitz's Murrelet," held in Long Beach, California, February 17, 2010 were completed and published in *Marine Ornithology* 39(1):2-122 in August 2011. All 11 papers presented at the symposium were published in the proceedings and are available on the *Marine Ornithology* website.

(3) We completed and distributed 2010 and 2011 KIMU Project Summaries of completed, current, and proposed projects to study KIMU in Alaska and Russia. The goals of this effort were to improve communication among investigators of KIMU studies and to connect funding agencies and organizations with investigators seeking funding for specific projects. Annual summaries are available on request.

(4) We drafted and sent a letter from PSG to Geoff Haskett, Alaska Regional Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on February 4, 2011. The purpose of the letter was to encourage the Service to move forward with the evaluation for listing of the KIMU under the U.S.

Endangered Species Act. See the 2011 KMTC Mid-year Report (dated March 15, 2011) for details regarding letter development.

(5) In September 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the 2011 Candidate Notice of Review in the Federal Register lowering the Listing Priority Number (LPN) for the species from a 2 to an 8. However, because of the multi-district legislation settlement (see #6 below), the change in the LPN had no influence on the timeline of the listing evaluation for KIMU.

(6) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reached a multi-district legislation settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians in September 2011 that requires the Service to review and address the needs of over 250 species, including the KIMU, on the 2010 Candidate Notice of Review. The Service received funding in 2012 to begin the listing evaluation for KIMU and to publish a decision regarding the legal status of the species in the U.S. *Federal Register* by 30 September 2013. The KIMU cannot remain a Candidate for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act; the Service will have to either have to reach an "not warranted" finding or publish a proposed rule by this date.

FUTURE OF THE KMTC

As of 11 February 2012, I will resign as Coordinator of the KMTC for two primary reasons. First, I have coordinated this committee since its inception in 2008 and the committee would benefit from new leadership. Secondly, I am leading the KIMU listing evaluation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (beginning in February 2012), and therefore I now view my position as Coordinator of the KMTC for PSG as a direct conflict with my assigned tasks at the Service.

Several individuals have been encouraged by me and others to assume the KMTC Coordinator role, but nobody has stepped forward to do so at this time [Editor's note: as of 31 January 2012; see

also PSG News item in this issue]. With the KIMU listing evaluation underway, I suspect that PSG (or some members of PSG) may want to be involved in certain aspects of the process. I suggest using the Conservation Committee as an avenue for PSG to write letters and/or review materials related to the KIMU listing evaluation and, if necessary, a proposed rule and designation of critical habitat. I recommend classifying the KMTC as "inactive" for one year to allow time for someone to assume the leadership role; however, if after one year, the committee still lacks a coordinator, I suggest PSG abolish the KMTC. If the need arises again, the KMTC can reform at that time.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the KMTC in the last four years (2008-2011). Key accomplishments include:

- Organizing five formal and one informal KMTC meetings
- Compiling and distributing a prioritized list of information needs for the KIMU
- Writing three letters to agencies and organizations encouraging KIMU conservation
- Facilitating and improving coordination among researchers, managers, and interested individuals
- Convening a symposium with 11 papers that summarized the current state of knowledge regarding status and trends of the KIMU
- Publishing proceedings of the aforementioned symposium in *Marine Ornithology*
- Maintaining an annual list of current, completed, and proposed KIMU projects
- Elevating awareness of KIMU within state and federal agencies, industry, universities, and non-governmental organizations

I appreciate the opportunity to coordinate this important committee on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group, and I thank the Executive Council for support over the years.

MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

William Ritchie, Coordinator

The Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (MMTC) is a long-standing committee of the Pacific Seabird Group. Its role is: (1) to act as a technical authority about the status, distribution, and life history of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*); (2) to identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) to address conservation problems related to the Marbled Murrelet; and (4) to act as a liaison between research and management.

MMTC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The full committee met 10 and 11 March 2011 in Santa Cruz, California. This was a stand-alone meeting, since the Pacific Seabird Group did not hold an annual meeting in calendar year 2011. The meeting was convened to assist with development of a regional Marbled Murrelet conservation plan and to identify outstanding questions and research needs for the Santa Cruz (Recovery Zone 6) population. It was hosted by California Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), the *Command* and *Luckenbach* Trustee Councils, and California State Parks. Twenty-eight members and guests attended the meeting and a field tour of murrelet sites in the Santa Cruz Mountains and coastal foraging habitats. Attendees were able to satisfy their adventurous side as a tsunami struck the coast during our meeting.

Committee membership totaled 71 in 2011, a slight reduction from 2010. Losses from Alaska, British Columbia, and Oregon were somewhat offset by slight increases from California and Washington. The latter two regions accounted for more than half the committee's current members.

The proposed Radar Ridge wind energy project, the first major wind farm in Western Washington, was canceled because of federal requirements to protect the Marbled Murrelet. Declining economics made the project unfeasible. In 2009 and 2010 the MMTC wrote letters outlining our concerns about the potential impacts to Marbled Murrelets

by locating this development at Radar Ridge. The proposed site would have been located within close proximity to the South Nemah Natural Resource Conservation Area and other conservation lands in southwest Washington. These conservation lands were in part designated to protect and enhance Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat, including long-term murrelet conservation for the Washington Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Plan and The Nature Conservancy Ellsworth Preserve.

Tree climbing is occasionally used for small-scale Marbled Murrelet nesting assessments in suitable habitat; often only a single tree is climbed. In 2002 MMTC wrote a letter providing general guidance on when and how tree climbing should be used to identify suitable murrelet nest trees. The Committee has developed a draft standardized training protocol for use in certifying climbers. The protocol will be reviewed at our 2012 meetings. A training session will be held in autumn 2012, pending available funding.

In the Committee's final action for 2011, the MMTC Inland Survey Protocol (ISP) Working Group began working on revisions and updates to the survey protocol and training curricula. A core group met in Corvallis, Oregon in November to identify sections of the protocol that need revision. A working draft was prepared and will be presented for discussion at the MMTC meetings to be held in early 2012. We are planning to have a final revised ISP available for Executive Council review by autumn 2012.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Since our 2011 Santa Cruz meeting, inland A/V surveys, corvid research and management, new habitat mapping, and outreach and litter control programs at state parks have continued or expanded. The Sempervirens Fund has developed a regional conservation plan for Marbled Murrelets in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Although survey detection levels show a downward trend, and the population may

be supported largely due to emigration, it appears to be more robust than the 2009 estimate.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a final revised Critical Habitat designation in October 2011. The new designation removed approximately 190,000 acres in southern Oregon and northern California, an area where extensive surveys over many years has not found murrelets. Many of these lands were determined to be unsuitable habitat since the 1996 Critical Habitat designation.

Marbled Murrelet at-sea population monitoring continued as part of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Effectiveness Monitoring Program. For the 5-zone area combined, the overall population has declined during the years 2000 to 2011. An estimated population of 22,500 birds was up from the previous year, but large confidence intervals persisted. A declining trend is evident in both the 5-zone area and in Zones 1 and 2 (Washington). At-sea monitoring will continue in 2012, but may need to be curtailed if funding is reduced in subsequent years.

A model developed for the NWFP terrestrial habitat monitoring component has shown that 64% (2.4 million ac) of higher suitability Marbled Murrelet habitat is on federal lands. The model examined changes in available habitat between 1994-1996 and 2006-2007. The trend shows an overall loss of habitat of 7-13%. Federal lands saw a 3% loss where as private lands showed a 30% loss in habitat. Much of the loss was due to timber harvest and fire. Reports summarizing the NWFP monitoring activities from 2000-2011 are available at: www.reo.gov/monitoring

FUTURE MMTC WORK ITEMS

Members of the MMTC will be developing a radar survey protocol for pre-construction monitoring at proposed wind energy projects. A three-day meeting was held in late January 2012 to begin this process.

MMTC members will also continue working on revisions to the Inland Survey Protocol.

THE XANTUS'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Harry Carter and Shaye Wolf, Coordinators

The mandate of the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee (XMTC) is to "monitor the federal listing petition, state status, research, and conservation issues; provide information to interested parties; and coordinate research and conservation in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada." The Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) occurs at sea along western Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and south-central British Columbia; it breeds on islands off southern California and northwestern Baja California. Below, we summarize XMTC activities in 2010 and 2011.

MEETINGS

Our meeting at the February 2010 PSG Annual Meeting in Long Beach had strong attendance and focused on the management and restoration plan. At the September 2010 World Seabird Conference in Victoria and the February 2012 PSG Annual Meeting in Oahu, we chose not to hold meetings due to expected low attendance. In September 2011, we attempted to organize a meeting in southern California but insufficient numbers of people were available. We are currently planning to organize a meeting in southern California in summer-fall 2012.

MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

The XMTC has been an active cooperator in the preparation of the Xantus's Murrelet Management and Restoration Plan that will guide state and federal efforts to protect and restore Xantus's Murrelets at breeding islands in southern California and northwestern Baja California. This plan will fill an important gap since California is not required to write a recovery plan and the Xantus's Murrelet is still a federal candidate for listing, and as such, it receives no protection under the Endangered Species Act. Plan preparation is being led by Humboldt State University (HSU, which obtained funding from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Several XMTC members are primary authors,

and several organizations, universities, and agencies in the US, Mexico and Canada are involved. This collaborative effort has been spearheaded through coordination and prompting of the XMTC. The document will be published as a CDFG report, in both English and Spanish, and will be posted on CDFG and PSG websites.

In spring 2011, an incomplete review draft (Carter et al., in prep.) was prepared and circulated to the whole committee for comments. We are continuing to work on this document to finish missing sections and will circulate a more final version to the whole committee for comments in 2012. We hope to have a final version as early as fall 2012, although Spanish translation may take longer.

LISTING STATUS

Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, a federal listing priority number of 5 has been retained by the Xantus's Murrelet in the Candidate Notice of Review. However, in July 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to: (1) re-examine the status of 251 candidate species (including Xantus's Murrelet); and (2) by 30 September 2016, submit to the Federal Register for publication either a Proposed Rule (for endangered or threatened status) or a "not warranted" finding for the Xantus's Murrelet. Status review work will likely start in 2013 or 2014. The XMTC expects to assist this process by: (1) continuing to provide updated information to better assess current threats and restoration of this species in the U.S. and Mexico; (2) completing the Management and Restoration Plan (see above); and (3) encouraging further publication of research on Xantus's Murrelets (see next section below). The State of California officially listed the Xantus's Murrelet as Threatened in December 2004; however, there is still no recovery plan or implementation schedule. Xantus's Murrelets are listed as Endangered in México; the species is not listed in Canada.

PLANS FOR PUBLICATION OF RECENT RESEARCH

In 2005, PSG and the Colonial Waterbird Society (now the Waterbird Society) hosted a symposium on Xantus's Murrelets at the Portland meeting. Proceedings of the symposium were published in *Marine Ornithology* (Volume 33, No. 2). However, several papers were not prepared in time for inclusion and additional studies have been conducted since 2005. At the planned XMTC meeting in summer 2012, we will discuss the preparation of another volume of papers on Xantus's Murrelets for publication in the *Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology*. Papers in this volume would greatly assist listing, management and conservation decisions in the near future.

GENETICS AND SPECIES

Queen's University and the California Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES) have completed a range-wide genetics study (Birt et al., in press). The two subspecies of the Xantus's Murrelet (*S. h. hypoleucus* and *S. h. scrippsi*) are different species based on genetic analyses, and these two species are clearly distinct from Craveri's Murrelet (*S. craveri*). All three *Synthliboramphus* murrelet "species" breed off northwestern Baja California, while only *S. h. scrippsi* breeds in southern California. Conservation and management efforts should recognize them as three distinct species until full recognition by the scientific community is received.

NEST MONITORING

In 2010, nest monitoring for hatching success, timing of breeding, and population size changes was conducted at two sites. Monitoring on Santa Barbara Island was done by field personnel Kevin Barnes, Sasha Auer, and Laurie Harvey, funded by Montrose Settlements Trustee Council (MSTC) and the Channel Islands National Park (CINP). Work

on Anacapa Island by Darrell Whitworth and others (Whitworth et al. 2012) was funded by the *American Trader* Trustee Council (ATTC). This was the final year of ATTC support for monitoring at Anacapa Island. A report on 2008-2009 nest monitoring at Santa Barbara Island will be available in the near future (Harvey et al., in prep.).

In 2011, nest monitoring was continued by CINP on Santa Barbara Island (Harvey, Barnes, Auer) and on Anacapa Island (Harvey), with funding from the MSTC.

Nest monitoring has not been conducted in Baja California since 2007, due to completion of CIES monitoring that was funded by Chevron at the Coronado Islands in that year. That project was related to Chevron's Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal plan, which has since been withdrawn. Funding has also been insufficient for Mexican groups and researchers for monitoring at the San Benito Islands. A long-term monitoring program is needed in northwestern Baja California.

SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

In 2009-10, extensive Xantus's Murrelet surveys were conducted at Santa Barbara Island by a group of researchers: Darrell Whitworth (CIES), Laurie Harvey (CINP), Nina Karnovsky (Pomona College), and Harry Carter (Carter Biological Consulting), with funding from the MSTC. These surveys included four methods: (1) nest searches in all accessible coastal areas; (2) nocturnal spotlight surveys for estimating population size and measuring population size changes; (3) nocturnal at-sea captures using the night-lighting technique, to examine status of birds in at-sea congregations; and (4) diurnal at-sea transects for distribution (replicating 1976-77 transects), coupled with at-sea sampling to assess prey and oceanographic conditions (Whitworth et al. 2011).

In 2011, nest monitoring and at-sea captures were continued by CINP (Harvey, Barnes, Auer) at Santa Barbara Island, funded by MSTC.

RESTORATION

On Anacapa Island, Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) eradication was conducted in 2001-02 (Island Conservation and CINP), funded by ATTC (Howald et al. 2005). Annual nest monitoring by HSU and CIES from 2000 to 2010 has shown that numbers of nests in monitored areas have grown substantially, with high hatching success. However, most upper island areas have not yet been reused for nesting, based on fall 2009 surveys (Whitworth et al. 2012).

On Santa Barbara Island, native plant restoration by CINP (Harvey, Barnes, Auer) began in 2007 and has since expanded greatly, funded by MSTC (Harvey and Barnes 2009).

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Introduced Mammals—At most islands with breeding Xantus's Murrelets, introduced mammals have been eradicated over the past 30 years. Efforts continue to control cats at the south end of Guadalupe Island and at San Clemente Islands. Several proposals to fund cat eradication at Guadalupe Island have been prepared but not yet funded. Proposed black rat (*R. rattus*) eradication at San Miguel Island, with funding from the MSTC, is now doubtful due to concerns about impacts to island foxes (*Urocyon littoralis*). GEI is examining eradication options for a non-native deer mouse (*Peromyscus* sp.) that was introduced to West San Benito Island in 2007. No efforts to remove introduced rats or cats are underway at Cedros and Santa Catalina Islands, although murrelets likely breed in areas that are not currently accessed by introduced mammals.

Bright Lights—No efforts have been made to address potential impacts from bright lights near breeding colonies (i.e., squid fishing lights, aquaculture facilities, anchored vessels, etc.). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering possible effects of lights on seabirds at offshore oil platforms in southern California. Future seabird restoration plans in Baja California funded by MSTC and *Luckenbach* Trustee Council have identified the reduction of bright lights as one goal.

LNG Proposals—The XMTC is following the progress of 2 proposals for constructing LNG terminals near XAMU colonies in the CINP: (1) Crystal Energy's Clearwater Port, located approximately 20.2 km offshore of the city of Oxnard in the Santa Barbara Channel, and 10-15 km off Anacapa Island; and (2) Esperanza Energy's Port Esperanza, located approximately 24 km seaward of the Port of Long Beach. Both projects appear to be on hold.

Offshore Wind Farms—BOEM is developing programmatic regulations for offshore wind development, and the XMTC is monitoring opportunities to provide public comments.

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CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND (SMALL GRANT FUND)

Verena Gill, Coordinator

The Small Grant Fund accepts applications for support from people in developing nations of the Pacific Rim, who are doing research, outreach, and other activities for the conservation of seabirds. Between September 2010 and January 2012, we received six inquiries for funding. Of those, three were funded, one is waiting for the applicants to submit a full proposal, one was denied because it was for work outside of the Pacific, and one never responded to our request for a full proposal.

The three funded proposals were:

- Dr. Carlos B. Zavalaga, Peru. At-sea movements of Peruvian-Diving Petrels in Peru: Interaction with fisheries? \$2000. Fully funded
- Mere Tabudravu, Fiji. Community-based Monitoring and Conservation of the Collared Petrel. \$2000. Fully funded.
- Diego Miranda, Chile. Northern Chile Beached Seabird Surveys. \$1910. Fully funded.

The committee continues to work on raising the funds that support our grants. A 5K foot race was held at the 2012 Hawaii meeting to raise money for this fund. Each person was charged \$15, and the entire amount went to the Fund.

There was a donation button for the Fund on the registration page for the 2012 Hawaii meeting, which has generated money.

Our account with Amazon.com has generated some money for the Fund when people buy products through the PSG portal.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Verena Gill, Coordinator

The PSG Listserv had 683 members as of 27 January 2012. This figure exceeds the number of official members; reasons are that some people have a couple of e-mail accounts, and some people from developing countries have been signed up for free.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Melanie Steinkamp, Coordinator

The Corresponding Members Committee provides PSG membership to researchers and conservationists in developing countries. Committee members are Melanie Steinkamp (Coordinator), John Piatt, Jessica Hardesty, and Malcolm Coulter. To retain Corresponding Membership, recipients are asked to provide a brief report on research or conservation in their area for *Pacific Seabirds*, at least every three years; we suggest more frequent submissions. We also have included other communications, such as the Indian Ocean Seabird Group Newsletter that has been posted on the PSG Listserv, and we have recently

included BirdLife Pacific to increase our communication with that group.

We originally had eight memberships to provide and, as this costs PSG minimally, EXCO has allotted us another eight, for a total of 16. Not all are yet filled (see below).

Changes over the past year:

John Cooper is moving on! We held him as a Corresponding Member in appreciation for his great contribution to establishing *Marine Ornithology*. He is duly moving on to become the first Honorary Member of PSG. We offer him our great congratulations!

Malcolm has stepped down as coordinator of this committee, and

Melanie is now taking the lead. We look forward to her leadership.

We have replaced Amit Sukal (BirdLife Pacific) with Don Stewart, because Amit has moved on. Don, who is now in charge, will keep communication flowing.

We presently have seven Corresponding Members, from China, Colombia (2), Fiji, Ecuador, The Indian Ocean and Peru.

We are a small, slow-acting committee.

We encourage suggestions to add other Corresponding Members. Please contact Melanie Steinkamp at Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Pacific Seabird Group's Executive Council (EXCO) meets two or more times a year, at the winter Annual Meeting and during the rest of the year by conference calls. Each meeting's Minutes are available after they are approved at the next Exco meeting: a summary in *Pacific Seabirds*, and the full Minutes on the group's web site (www.pacificseabirds.org) The minutes summarized below were approved in October 2011 and February 2012.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

7 September 2010

Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC, Canada

PSG ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Executive Council (EXCO) meeting in Long Beach, California on 17 February 2010 were approved unanimously after being amended.

Chair-elect (Pat Jodice)

Pat apologized for not preparing a written report, since he was fully occupied with the program committee of the First World Seabird Conference (WSC). [Further details are in "Meeting News," *Pacific Seabirds* 37(2):36, 2010.]

Treasurer (Ron LeValley)

Ron apologized for not preparing a formal report; he has been very busy handling all WSC's financial matters. Ron recently discovered that we have not filed our taxes for the last 2 years. The accountant who has this responsibility attempted to file online; the filing was not accepted, but this was not discovered at the time. Ron has worked hard to clear up this issue and we are no longer at risk of losing our tax-exempt status. The accountant is covering one year of tax expenses, and negotiations with the IRS are ongoing to reduce the 2nd year of bills. Ron cleared up some unusual and unexpected misinformation the IRS had on PSG.

Membership is slightly up, perhaps due to large attendance at this meeting. Sending an announcement of publication of *Pacific Seabirds* along with a reminder

to keep membership current has helped get people to pay their dues. There are 3 new life members.

The Endowment Account has gone down a bit as of 30 June.

PSG's Publications Fund has not been used for some time. Perhaps PSG should consider whether there might be a better use for these funds. All Life Membership dues currently go into the Endowment Fund, which is designated solely for PSG publications. Should this continue? Some EXCO members wanted to continue the present arrangement; others suggested that some Endowment money be used to fund travel for foreign scientists or be transferred to the Conservation Fund. EXCO may consider the issue at a future meeting.

The new provider of EXCO's directors' insurance (a cooperative package for California non-profits) is working well. Coverage for the WSC was included in the regular premium—no additional rider was required. It is also cheaper than our previous policy.

Election Committee (Pat Baird)

Pat updated EXCO on newly elected members, and discussed the need to improve outreach and promotion for the next set of elections. The duties of the Regional Representatives were also discussed; there is a feeling that more specific instructions regarding the requirements of these positions is needed.

Awards Committee

A motion was passed unanimously that John Cooper be made the first Honorary Member of PSG. [This category of award was created by the Bylaws revisions of April 2010.]

Craig S. Harrison Conservation Small-grant Committee (Verena Gill)

Five applications were received for funding by the committee; 3 were funded. An initiative with BirdLife International to support the Conservation Fund fell through due to the recession; however, a \$2000 donation was received from Commonwealth in August 2010.

Communications Committee (website, Listserv, Twitter) (Verena Gill)

The PSG website needs updating. Its list of committees is out of date, and in general, there remains an unacceptable amount of missing and incomplete information on the website.

Verena updated EXCO on the state of the PSG listserv (currently 607 members) and the PSG Twitter account (115 followers). The Twitter account seems to be reaching an entirely new audience for PSG.

PSG's representation at the American Bird Conservancy (Craig Harrison)

We may need some new blood to represent PSG to the American Bird Conservancy (the current representatives are Craig and Malcolm Coulter). Preferably this should be someone who lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

PSG's representation on the Ornithological Council

Doug Forsell informed EXCO that he is now the longest-serving member of the Ornithological Council (OC). PSG has contributed \$1,000 per year to the OC. EXCO members discussed the desire of some that all experiments and field projects be certified regarding current Animal Care protocols.

PSG posters and brochures

Ron LeValley designed and printed PSG posters for our table here at the WSC. Vivian Mendenhall has designed and printed PSG brochures that explain our organization and its purposes. EXCO expressed interest in continuing to use the posters and brochures at future meetings of PSG and other societies.

PSG PUBLICATIONS

Marine Ornithology (Tony Gaston)

Tony Gaston updated EXCO on *Marine Ornithology*. The journal operates on a shoestring budget, and its current financial model will need to be updated if the journal is to remain active.

Pacific Seabirds (Vivian Mendenhall)

She is working on the issue for Spring 2010 currently. Regional Representatives will need to collect activity reports from PSG members in their region beginning shortly after this WSC meeting.

Electronic publication of *Pacific Seabirds* has saved us some money. Our total expenditure for Volume 35 (all hard copies) was \$6,681; the total for Volume 36 (which half of the members received electronically) was \$5,299.

MEETINGS

PSG's Long Beach meeting, February 2010, and discussion of financial losses at meetings

PSG realized a financial loss on the Long Beach meeting. Reasons included: low attendance, due to the WSC being held later in the same year; decisions by many attendees to stay elsewhere than the Westin Hotel; and PSG's lack of success at renegotiating our commitment to

fill a block of rooms at the Westin, once we realized that reservations would fall short. (Westin did allow PSG to spend some of our \$25,000 commitment on food and other items.)

Various options were discussed for avoiding cost overruns future meetings. These included hiring a conference planner, similar to the one employed for the WSC; more extensive communication between the local committee chair and the treasurer, local chairs of past meetings, and others; and writing hotel contracts to ensure that our commitment to fill a block of rooms can be reduced if we haven't filled them by a specified date.

A motion was passed to form a PSG Conference Coordinating Committee. Its members will include the Treasurer, the current Past Chair, and several local chairs of past meetings.

World Seabird Conference

Chair of WSC International Steering Committee (David Irons)—

Dave thanked the EXCO for accepting the financial risk for putting on the first WSC, and for PSG's the continuing support of this effort. Dave drew our attention to the meeting at 1300 today to discuss the continuation of the International Steering Committee.

Chair of the WSC Local Committee (Pat O'Hara)—Pat thanked PSG for approving the hiring of an event coordinator, which has been vital to the success of the meeting.

Slightly more than half the registrants (750 so far) are from non-North American countries (43 nations). The most registrants are from the US, then Canada, the UK, and New Zealand.

Income from registrations probably will not quite cover meeting expenses, but any shortfall will easily be covered by efforts of the International Fundraising Committee. PSG will be reimbursed for their funding advances to the WSC.

[Further details are in "Meeting News," *Pacific Seabirds* 37(2):36, 2010.]

PSG's 2012 Meeting, Oahu (Lindsay Young, Local Committee Chair)

The proposed site is a YMCA camp (Camp Erdman), a little different from

PSG's usual venues. Expenses of registration, food, and lodging would cost about \$500 each. There are 8 houses that sleep 8 people and 16 houses that sleep 16. There are also vacation rentals nearby; the nearest hotel is about 30 minutes away. The facility is 35-40 minutes from the airport, requiring either rental cars or some sort of shuttle service.

Lindsay will prepare a revised budget for the meeting, based on feedback at this EXCO meeting. She will also investigate hotel alternatives on Oahu, and will conduct a survey of the general membership to see what the sort of venue they would prefer. The registration fee will be designed to ensure that the meeting will run in the black.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (Michelle Kissling)

Michelle updated EXCO on 11 papers that will soon be published in *Marine Ornithology*. She also gave EXCO a 24-page report on the Information Needs Workshop that was held in Alaska in 2009.

Mabled Murrelet Technical Committee (Bill Ritchie)

PSG sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommending against the Radar Ridge wind power project in southwest Washington. (USFWS is reviewing the Endangered Species Act consultation for the project). The project would occur on Washington state lands.

Chinese Crested Tern Working Group (Verena Gill)

Verena noted that PSG continues in a networking role on conservation issues related to Chinese Crested Terns (CCT). She also reported on Dan Roby's visit to Taiwan in 2010 to attend a 2-day CCT conservation workshop. Roby presented a paper on social attraction as a means to restore depleted seabird colonies. She also made EXCO aware of the way in which international politics cause complications for conservation in the region. Funding may be limiting conservation efforts for CCT.

Seabird Monitoring Committee (Scott Hatch)

Scott updated EXCO on the exciting advances in the development of the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database, which is now implemented

and accessible on the Web. Data are being entered. A big focus of the WSC will be starting the development of a global seabird database.

Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee

This Coordinator did not attend the EXCO meeting. Since Japan is now in the new Asia region, with its own Regional Representative, EXCO discussed whether this committee is still needed.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING 29 March 2011, by Conference Call

PSG ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of previous meetings

The approval of minutes from the executive council meeting in Victoria (September 2010) was tabled until the fall conference call.

Chair (Pat Jodice)

Update on future meetings:

- North American Ornithological Congress in August 2012. PSG will have just had a meeting in Hawaii; the timing is not good for us to participate.
- 2013: two locations have been proposed (Portland and Juneau); Holly Freifeld and Adrian Gall are looking into these options.

Chair-elect (Kim Rivera)

Update on the science program for the annual meeting in Hawai'i: a theme for the meeting has not been identified at this point.

Interest has been shown for symposia/special paper sessions on management of predation on nesting seabirds, and rehabilitation versus restoration. Proposals are due May 15th. Kim Rivera will speak to folks on Oahu for a tropical seabird workshop to see if there is any interest in a continuation of that work.

Past Chair (Tom Good)

Update on Lifetime and Special Achievement for the Hawai'i meeting.

Updating the PSG Handbook needs more time; a draft version will be ready for the Hawaii meeting.

Treasurer (Ron LeValley)

Due to a bookkeeping error, PSG's taxes were not filed for two years, resulting in fines, which have been paid. The bookkeeper paid the fines from the first year; those from the second year were paid by PSG, and later refunded after Ron LeValley wrote a letter to the IRS.

- Membership is increasing, consistent with other ornithological societies.
- The 2011 budget is a bit different than normal because of the lack of an annual meeting.
- We are now accepting money for *Marine Ornithology* via PayPal. *Marine Ornithology* has been successful in the past few years and has not required the \$6,000 set aside for them by PSG.
- We continue to hold some cash from the World Seabird Conference.
- We lost \$40,000 at the Long Beach meeting; this does not include \$20,000 that a provider owes to PSG, which is being paid via installments.
- Ron LeValley has been talking with Chase Bank about setting up a third-party account. PSG is currently using PayPal, for which we pay about \$1,500 in fees. Using Chase Bank will save PSG money if PSG's usage of PayPal increases.
- We may need to consider separating the Treasurer job into two (Treasurer and Membership).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Committee for Oahu meeting (Lindsay Young)

- The contract with the Makaha resort is close to being finalized; it includes a 90-day release for rooms.
- Local operators have been contacted regarding field trips, including a trip to Midway.
- The proposed budget estimates a profit of \$10,000 from the meeting. Due to concerns over travel expenses, this may be a poorly attended meeting; the LOCO are keeping a close eye on contracts and expenses. The LOCO would like to include a buffer in the budget for unexpected expenses.
- Registration can be done using PayPal; a link will be placed on PSG website. Once this system is set up, it will be available to use in future years.

Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee

- Michelle Kissling will be stepping down as chair of this committee at the Hawai'i meeting. No one has stepped forward to take over this role.
- The committee had internal dissension about a letter regarding whether Kittlitz's Murrelets are endangered. If PSG takes a formal position about this, it needs a vote by EXCO.

Communications Committee

Housekeeping issue: we need to ensure that “Publications Committee” is replaced with “Communications Committee” in all contexts, now that the Publications committee does not exist.

General committees update

Every committee would benefit from having co-chairs/assistant chairs. General discussion about whether this should be left up to committees to decide

on their own; there was consensus that this idea should be explored.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Permit statements for *Pacific Seabirds* and *Marine Ornithology*

PSG currently does not have a written policy for permit statements in our publications. We need to find out what other publications are doing and revisit this issue during the fall conference call.

Updates from delegates to councils

The Ornithological Exchange’s website (<http://ornithologyexchange.org>) is a forum that seabirds.net should tie into sometime.

The Seabird Group will be having their annual meeting in Plymouth, England on 2-4 September.

MOTIONS

The only motion that was passed was approval of the budget.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING 27 October 2011, by Conference Call

PSG ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of previous meetings

The approval of minutes from the executive council meeting in Victoria (September 2010) was tabled until the Hawaii meeting.

Minutes from the executive council spring conference call were approved.

Chair (Pat Jodice)

The online registration system is working well; it has cut down the amount of time that the LOCO needs to devote to registration, and all money is deposited directly into PSG’s accounts.

Update on future meetings:

- 2013, Portland: Holly Freifeld has found the Hilton and Marriott Waterfront are the two best hotels for us and is continuing to explore these options. There was some discussion about contracting out some of the planning, as was done for the WSC; but given that PSG meetings are much smaller than the WSC, this may not be necessary.
- 2014, Juneau: Adrian Gall and others continue to explore Juneau as an option. Additional meeting locations should be put forward, so a vote can be made at the Hawai’i meeting.

Past Chair (Tom Good)

Updates to the handbook need more time and a draft version will be ready for the Hawaii meeting. It was agreed that Tom will continue to flag sections and send out a revised draft before the Hawaii meeting.

Update on awards for the Hawaii meeting:

- Lifetime achievement award to John Cooper, who has also agreed to give a plenary talk
- Travel award applications have been received and will be announced on 28 October.
- Judges for student paper and poster awards will be contacted as the meeting gets closer.

Chair-elect (Kim Rivera)

Updates on the scientific program for the Hawai’i meeting: the meeting theme is tropical seabirds. There are four special paper sessions; no requests for symposia were received. Two plenary speakers have been confirmed (Jeffrey Polovina and Mathieu LeCorre). The call for abstracts went out on 19 August, and they are due on 4 November.

Treasurer (Ron LeValley)

PSG is in good standing.

Discussion of divvying up the funds from the WSC between PSG and the World Seabird Union was tabled until the Hawai’i meeting.

MEETINGS

Local committee for PSG 2012 meeting (Lindsay Young)

Change of venue: The Makaha Resort closed suddenly earlier this month. Makaha has said that our refund for the deposit that we already sent them (\$20,000) will be issued to PSG within 30 days. The next step is to write a demand letter. We may also be owed damages for extra costs that we’ve incurred because Makaha broke the contract. Consensus among EXCO to wait until we get our deposit or the 30 days have passed before sending a demand letter for damages.

Members who have already made reservations at Makaha will be notified to cancel the transaction.

The closure of Makaha means we must find a new venue for the February meeting. Lindsay has researched new venues. Turtle Bay and the Waikiki convention center are the two best options. EXCO briefly discussed the differences between the two and decided that the

amenities and atmosphere at Turtle Bay make it the best option.

The room block at Turtle Bay is 50 rooms at \$177/night plus \$25/night resort fee. There is other housing nearby, so it should not be a problem for people to find accommodations in their price range. This block contains fewer rooms than PSG usually reserves, but we cannot negotiate more rooms at that cost. We have until 29 October to sign the contract with Turtle Bay.

Banquet costs will be higher at Turtle Bay than Makaha; the additional charges will need to be covered by meeting profits.

PUBLICATIONS

Pacific Seabirds (Vivian Mendenhall)

Pat Baird was asked to be associate editor of *Pacific Seabirds*. Requests were sent out for regional reports for the 2011 issue; an e-mail will be sent out asking for a volunteer assistant editor for regional reports.

MOTIONS

PSG 2012: Don Lyons moved and Ken Morgan seconded to allow Lindsay Young to complete negotiations with Turtle Bay Resort and sign resulting

contract. 13 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions; motion passed unanimously

PSG 2013: Ron LeValley moved and Hannah Nevins seconded that Holly Freifeld move forward with plans for the 2013 meeting in Portland. 13 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions; motion passed unanimously

New Regional Representative for the non-Pacific United States: Ken Morgan moved and Ron LeValley seconded that we appoint Iain Stenhouse to be the USA representative. 12 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions; motion passed unanimously.

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PSG ELECTIONS FOR 2012 EXCO

Patricia Baird, Elections Chair

The following were elected to the Executive Council for February 2012-February 2013:

OFFICERS

Chair-Elect: Doug Forsell

Treasurer: Ron LeValley [*the interim treasurer is Lindsay Young—please see news article below*]

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Alaska: Adrian Gall

Northern California: Hannah Nevins

Europe/Africa: Steffen Oppel

Asia: Yutaki Watanuki

Student Representative: Sarah Thomsen

THE ELECTION

Most terms run for two years; the Chair-Elect serves for one year, and then as Chair and Past-Chair for one year each. Terms for all newly elected EXCO

members begin on the adjournment of the annual meeting following the election.

Surprisingly, 66 members out of 739 voted (8%)—it was surprising that anyone voted because there was not one opposition candidate. So thanks to all of you stalwart members for exercising your right to vote. In comparison, the last election, which had more than one candidate running for some positions, only had 95 out of 527 (18%) voting, and in the run-off region of 27 members, only six members voted (22%). Kind of mimics the USA voter turnout. There were some write-ins, notably George Tirebiter, and I have kept these in a “PSG Futures” file for upcoming elections. Always feel free to nominate someone you think would be a good leader—this is your right as a member! (Your nominee does need to be interested in PSG—see next article on nominations.)

So thank you to all 66 of you who did vote. We found some bounced e-mail addresses—so to those of you who have changed e-mail addresses in the past 18

months (since the last election cycle), please send your update to the treasurer, Lindsay Young. She is responsible for keeping up the current list of members’ addresses, both e-mail and snail-mail. Most of the e-mails to Pomona College bounced, so if someone could follow through on that, it would help.

OPPORTUNITIES IN PSG

And all of you please read two articles in the recent issue of *Pacific Seabirds* (Volume 38, Numbers 1-2, 2011). The first is “How the Executive Council Works,” which outlines all jobs on EXCO and how your Board of Directors works for PSG. The second article is “How PSG Runs,” which summarizes our day-to-day operations, our conservation work, how Annual Meetings are created, and how PSG funds itself.

After reading these articles, please consider volunteering for PSG—you can run for election to EXCO or volunteer for one of the committees. Any member is eligible to join EXCO or work on a committee—including undergraduates!

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And if you want to learn more first, everyone is invited sit in during the EXCO meetings. I would urge members to do this to acquaint themselves with PSG's leadership and its operations (including the committees). Remember, this is an all-volunteer organization, and it would be good for you to take an active part in it. It is a rewarding experience!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 EXCO

Patricia Baird, Elections Chair

It is time again to call for nominations to PSG's Executive Council (EXCO). The people whom we elect will join EXCO right after the Portland meeting in February 2013. Nominations must be received by 1 June 2012 to be considered by the Elections Committee for placement on the ballot. The committee will meet in summer and fall 2012 to review all nominees. We will send out the final ballot 30 days before the next meeting (i.e., you will receive it in January 2013).

For each nominee on the ballot, we will provide a brief biography. The biography has an obligatory section that describes past involvement with PSG. Please nominate only someone who has shown interest in PSG. In-depth knowledge of PSG activities and issues is necessary for the Chair-Elect and Vice-Chair for Conservation, and is strongly preferred for the Treasurer and Secretary. Regional Representatives should have shown a definite interest in PSG.

These positions are up for nomination for 2013:

OFFICERS

Chair-Elect
Secretary
Vice-Chair Conservation

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Canada
Washington/ Oregon
Southern California/Hawaii/Latin

America
Non-Pacific United States

A description of each position can be found in PSG's Bylaws and Handbook, which are on the PSG website (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org).

PSG INTERIM TREASURER IS LINDSAY YOUNG

PSG Treasurer Ron LeValley requested a leave of absence, due to personal issues, effective 27 February 2012. The Executive Council approved Lindsay Young as Interim Treasurer during an EXCO Special Session conference call on the same day. Also at that Special Session, EXCO appointed a Financial Committee (Lindsay Young, Ken Briggs, Kim Rivera), which, under EXCO's direction, has made the necessary changes so that PSG's business continues seamlessly. These include keeping PayPal available for new and renewing members, transferring PSG's funds to an account near Lindsay, and keeping the membership and mailing lists up to date. Several other members have volunteered to help with these tasks, including Craig Harrison, Verena Gill, and Hannah Nevins. EXCO thanks Lindsay Young for stepping into a big job on short notice. We hope that Ron's concerns will be resolved favorably and quickly.

THAT MAKAHA PROBLEM

PSG's 2012 Annual Meeting encountered a brand-new pitfall: the resort that was going to host our meeting went out of business less than four months before the date of the meeting. The Makaha Resort on Oahu's north shore closed its doors suddenly and without warning for "renovations." PSG had paid a deposit of almost \$22,000 in May 2011 to secure the contract with Makaha, and members were already making reservations for rooms.

Lindsay Young, chair of the Local Committee, immediately started the process again of selecting a venue for the meeting. She found the excellent Turtle Bay Resort, which was approved by EXCO within a short time.

The longer-term problem, however, was the \$22,000 deposit we had paid to Makaha. The resort stated immediately that our money would be refunded within 30 days. That did not happen, so in November, PSG sent a demand letter (written by *pro bono* legal counsel) to both Makaha and to its parent company, Northwynd. Makaha never replied; Northwynd did not reply until January, and then only that "vendors and the like" might be repaid. PSG stated that we're not a "vendor" and are legally entitled to a full refund.

In February 2012, EXCO retained a legal firm in Hawai'i, which did a title search on Makaha and investigated our legal options for recovering the money. The lawyers wrote to Makaha and Northwynd in March, stating again that the deposit must be returned, and that PSG may be entitled to additional compensation for damages (i.e., extra expenses) due to Makaha's breach of contract. Northwynd didn't reply, and the letter to Makaha was returned as undeliverable.

In May the lawyers wrote to PSG, "At this juncture, we would normally recommend initiating legal action to pursue . . . [PSG's] claim. However, in this case, legal action may not be a productive undertaking for PSG." Their research on current state property records shows that "There appears to be no business being conducted under this legal entity," and that "[I]t does not appear that Makaha Resort is the fee owner of the Property." It also would not be productive to sue Northwynd, as this company is a separate corporation based in Canada, is not registered in Hawai'i, and was not a party to the contract.

Based on the attorneys' advice, EXCO voted at their May 15 meeting not to pursue any further legal action to recover the Makaha deposit. We have requested that the Better Business Bureaus of Hawai'i and Canada investigate the

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problem, but recovery of the lost money seems unlikely. PSG members will be updated if anything changes

There's better news, though, regarding the effect on PSG's financial status. Even if none of the Makaha money can be recovered, the Oahu meeting will have made a modest net profit. The final balance sheet for the meeting shows that PSG's profit without the Makaha loss would have been \$25,500; therefore, even if we have to absorb the entire loss, we are still \$3,500 in the black.

EXCO and Local Chairs also are discussing how we can avoid an unpleasant surprise like this in the future.

NEW COMMITTEE TO ASSIST WITH ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Conference Coordinating Committee was established by EXCO in September 2010. The committee will support Local Committee Chairs, who make all the arrangements for an Annual Meeting (except for the scientific program, which is organized by the Chair-Elect). The Coordinating Committee can supply

much "institutional knowledge," but it will especially advise on financial arrangements at each meeting—from the amount of free food that's budgeted for receptions and afternoon breaks, to the all-important terms of the contract that must be signed with each hotel.

Members of the committee were selected for their experience with past meetings and with PSG's fiscal and legal affairs. They include the Treasurer (currently Lindsay Young), Craig Harrison, Katie O'Reilly, and Lora Leschner.

The work of organizing each annual meeting will depend on volunteers in the Local Committee, as always. And Local Chairs may consult other sources, from previous Local Chairs to PSG's Handbook. The Coordinating Committee has now provided advice and support for two Annual Meetings thus far, and its help has been greatly appreciated.

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT FOR *MARINE ORNITHOLOGY*

Tony Gaston, the Editor-in-Chief of *Marine Ornithology*, is retiring

next year, and PSG is searching for a new editor. EXCO approved a search committee for the editor-in-chief at its February meeting in Oahu. The committee members are Scott Hatch, Alan Burger, Bill Sydeman, Peter Dann, outgoing editor Gaston, and the journal's founding editor, John Cooper.

Tony's detailed account of *Marine Ornithology* over the past ten years, including his recent staff changes for even better editing, appears in "Reports to EXCO," elsewhere in this issue.

NEW COMMITTEE LEADERS

Two new coordinators of PSG committees were approved by EXCO in February 2012. Melanie Steinkamp has taken over the Corresponding Members Committee from longtime coordinator Malcolm Coulter; and John Piatt has stepped up as head of the Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee, in place of its founding leader Michelle Kissling. PSG welcomes the new Coordinators who have volunteered for these demanding posts. And we thank the outgoing coordinators for their hard work on behalf of PSG and seabirds.

REGIONAL REPORTS

FOR 2011

Regional reports summarize current seabird work of interest to PSG members. Regional Reports generally are organized by location of the work, not by affiliation of the biologist. Some reports for 2011 were received after the Fall 2011 issue went to press; three are printed below (the Northern California report was not available in time for this issue). Regional Reports should not be cited without permission of the authors.

ALASKA

Compiled by **Adrian Gall**

BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS

Adrian Gall and **Bob Day** (ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research and Services) completed the fourth field season of boat-based seabird surveys, as part of the Chukchi Sea Environmental Studies Program. The crew that included **Lauren Attanas**, **Jennifer Boisvert**, **Tim Obritschkewitsch**, **Corey Overton**, and **John Rose**. These surveys are an interdisciplinary oceanographic study that collects data concurrently on physical and biological oceanography, benthic ecology, fisheries, contaminants, marine mammals, and seabirds. The study area is 60-100 nautical miles (NM) offshore from the village of Wainwright. The data from the first 3 years of this study are being summarized in a series of papers that will be submitted for inclusion (pending review and acceptance) in a special issue of *Continental Shelf Research*. This study is funded jointly by ConocoPhillips, Shell E & P, and Statoil.

Tawna Morgan (ABR, Inc.) coordinated the second of two field seasons of seabird and marine mammal surveys for the Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program, an interdisciplinary oceanographic study that focuses on the nearshore zone (5-30 NM offshore) of the Chukchi Sea from Pt. Hope to Barrow. Tawna conducted the field work in August, surveying seabirds from Pt. Lay to Barrow. This study is being funded jointly by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Shell E & P.

Kathy Kuletz and **Liz Labunski** (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) completed the second of four years of pelagic seabird surveys in the northern Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort seas. Their work is part of the Seabird Distribution in the Offshore Environment project, funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). In 2011 they placed observers on five arctic research cruises for a total of 334 days at sea and over 10,800 km of transects. In addition, surveys were conducted on six cruises in the Bering Sea and along the Aleutian Islands for 74 days at sea and 4,930 km of transects. The 2011 observers were **Andy Bankert**, **Toby Burke**, **Lucas DeCicco**, **Sarah Jennings**, **Robb Kaler**, **Liz Labunski**, **David Pavlik**, **Catherine Pham**, **Declan Troy**, **Sophie Webb**, and **Tamara Zeller**.

Don Dragoo, **Jim Schneeweis**, and **Dave Kuehn** (Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge [AMNWR], USFWS) collected data on populations of Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) and Thick-billed Murres (*U. lomvia*), at Cape Lisburne, Alaska. In addition, they monitored Black-legged Kittiwake productivity.

BERING SEA

Kim Nelson (Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Oregon State University [OSU]) continued her research on the traditional ecological knowledge of seabirds and marine mammals at King Island in the Bering Sea. The project is entitled, "Documenting the Cultural Geography, Biogeography, and Traditional

Ecological Knowledge of King Island, Alaska." Her cooperators are **Deanna Kingston** (Department of Anthropology, OSU), the National Science Foundation, and the Elders of King Island. Nelson is using extensive interviews with Elders, combined with meetings and visits to King Island and Nome/Cape Woolley, to compile information on the birds and marine mammals on and around King Island. She is creating a bird guide for use by the Elders and their families, associating bird and mammal habitat with place names on King Island, and is summarizing traditional uses of birds and mammals on King Island and the Seward Peninsula. Integrating seabird ecology with Inupiat folklore is a current priority.

Kathy Kuletz (USFWS, Anchorage) continued work as a principal investigator on the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Project (BSIERP). Kuletz's project includes two components: "Broad-scale Seabird Distribution" and the at-sea component of the "Patch Dynamics Study" (PDS). Both are in the analysis and synthesis phases. The PDS examined predator-prey relationships around the Pribilof and Bogoslof islands. Field work was completed in 2008 and 2009. Graduate students **Nathan Jones** and **Brian Hoover** (Moss Landing Marine Labs, California State University) expect to complete their theses and publications in spring 2012. Seabird focal species of the PDS were Thick-billed Murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes. Nathan is examining diet and stable isotope signatures of these two species, and Brian is comparing foraging activity

duirng nighttime and daytime, as well as distribution relative to environmental features.

George Hunt and **Martin Renner** (University of Washington) and **Kathy Kuletz** are working with the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database to assess changes in the distribution and abundance of seabirds. They are using 35 years of quantitative data (since 1975) on seabird distribution and abundance in Alaskan waters. They are especially examining changes for Northern Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) and albatrosses (*Phoebastria* spp.) in the eastern Bering Sea, and investigating long-term patterns in cross-shelf and along-shelf patterns in distributions and abundance. They plan to examine decadal-scale variability in numbers of seabirds using the eastern Bering Sea, and relating the patterns to those of zooplankton with the help of **Ken Coyle** (University of Alaska Fairbanks). They will have several papers in the works by the end of spring 2012.

Working with several fisheries colleagues, **Rob Suryan** (OSU) and **Kathy Kuletz** are examining seasonal spatial relationships between seabirds and their prey in the southeastern Bering Sea, using data from 2008 to 2010.

Annual seabird monitoring on the Pribilof Islands was led by **Heather Renner** (AMNWR), with summer-long field crews consisting of **Greg Thomson** and **Derek Evon** (St. Paul) and **Matt Klosterman**, **Lauren Scopen**, and **Caitie Kroeger** (St. George). During July we also conducted population counts of ledge-nesting seabirds on both islands; this effort occurs once every three years and was aided by **Merry Maxwell**, **Elizabeth Caldwell**, **Frances Murphey**, and **Seth Wagner**.

Rachael Orben (PhD student at University of California, Santa Cruz), assisted by **Dean Kildaw** and **John Harley**, retrieved geolocation loggers deployed on 3 species of seabirds nesting on the Pribilof Islands. Tags recovered from Black-legged Kittiwakes and Thick-billed Murres completed a 3-year tagging effort begun in 2008, and tags

recovered from Red-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa brevirostris*) completed a one-year tagging effort. This research was funded by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB).

The Seabird Telemetry component of BSIERP, led by **David Irons** (USFWS) and **Dan Roby** (OSU), has finished data collection on Black-legged Kittiwakes and Thick-billed Murres at the Pribilof Islands after three successful field-seasons (2008-10). In the summer and fall of 2011, post-doctoral researcher **Rosana Paredes** (OSU) analyzed data on foraging distribution and breeding performance of Black-legged Kittiwakes in relation to oceanographic features and forage fish availability on the southeastern Bering Sea continental shelf and Aleutian basin. Two manuscripts on kittiwakes are scheduled to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals in late 2011 and early 2012.

Stephanie Sell and **Heidi Isernhagen** (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) monitored populations and productivity of Black-legged Kittiwakes, Common Murres, and Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*) at Round Island, within the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, between May and August 2011. Black-legged Kittiwake productivity was monitored for 53 nests; success was 0.28 chicks/nest, with 28% of the nests being successful. Common Murre productivity was 0.10 chicks/nest, with 10% success at 67 nests monitored. Pelagic Cormorant productivity was 0.50 chicks/nest, with 6% of 16 nests being successful.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Annual seabird monitoring was carried out at Buldir, Ulak, Koniui and Aiktak islands, led by **Jeff Williams** (AMNWR). Jeff also led coastline surveys of Rat, Tanadak, Davidof, Khvostof, Segula, Little Kiska and Kiska, Great Sitkin, Aziak, Asuksak, Tanaklak, Kanu, Umak, Igitkin and Atka Islands.

At Agattu Island in the western Aleutians, **Robb Kaler** (USFWS) and

Leah Kenney (AMNWR) conducted the final year of a 4-year study investigating the breeding biology of Kittlitz's Murrelets (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*). At the 21 nests discovered in 2011, six chicks fledged; they considered this a bumper-crop breeding year at Agattu, compared with the previous three seasons.

Kaler and Kenney, along with **Ellen Lance** (USFWS), confirmed the first nesting record of a *Brachyramphus* murrelet on Adak Island in September, when they discovered an abandoned egg laid at a non-active nest site that Kenney had discovered in summer 2010. Two additional nest sites of *Brachyramphus* murrelets were found and were identified based on a fecal ring at the scrape.

GULF OF ALASKA

At East Amatuli Island in the Barren Islands group, **Arthur Kettle**, **Sarah Youngren**, **Dan Rapp**, and **Margaret Lambert** (AMNWR) monitored reproductive success, prey, and population trends of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma furcata*), Black-legged Kittiwakes, Common and Thick-billed Murres, and Tufted Puffins (*Fratercula cirrhata*).

Nora Rojek (AMNWR) coordinated monitoring of long-term seabird demography at Chowiet Island, in the Semidis group off the coast of the Alaska Peninsula. The summer-long field crew of **Marty Reedy** and **Casey Engstrom** worked with several species, including Northern Fulmar, Red-faced (*Phalacrocorax urile*) and Pelagic Cormorants, Black-legged Kittiwake, Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), Common and Thick-billed Murres, Parakeet and Rhinoceros Auklets (*Aethia psittacula* and *Cerorhinca monocerata*), and Horned (*Fratercula corniculata*) and Tufted Puffins.

Rojek also conducted seabird coastline surveys in July 2011 around most of the islands in the outer Shumagins: Atkins, Bendel, Bird, Castle Rock, Chernabura, Hall, Haystacks Islets, Herendeen, Murie Islets, Murre Rocks, Peninsula, Simeonof, Spectacle, and Turner. She also surveyed the Black-legged

Kittiwake colony at Cape Thompson on Big Koniugi Island, and Midun Island in the Sandman Reefs. Additional crew members included **Dean Kildaw**, **Veronica Varela**, **Ingrid Harrald**, **Traven Apiki**, **Ithaca Sorensen**, and **Joe Masui**. They were based on AMNWR's research vessel *M/V Tiglax*.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) biologist **Robin Corcoran** initiated a summer nearshore survey for marine birds along the east side of Kodiak Island, from Chiniak Bay to Alitak Bay. The 2011 survey covered 1500 km of coastline with systematically placed transects. About 20% of the 3000 km² study area was sampled. The most commonly encountered species were Black-legged Kittiwakes, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), and Pigeon Guillemots (*Cephus columba*). Field operations were supported by several volunteers and by **Jeff Lewis**, who piloted the USFWS research vessel *M/V Ursa Major II*.

James Lawonn, graduate student under the direction of **Dan Roby** at OSU, completed a fourth field season locating and monitoring Kittlitz's Murrelet nests on the western end of Kodiak Island. This season, James and two volunteers (**Steve Crane** and **Deanna Russell**) located nests by systematically searching nesting habitat. They collected morphometric and genetic data on chicks after they hatched. Nests were periodically monitored to determine the status of breeding birds, and following the end of breeding activities, ground cover was sampled to characterize critical nesting habitat. During 2011, 22 active nests were discovered. Fourteen of these nest produced chicks, of which four fledged. Chick provisioning, nest depredation and egg abandonment were recorded at 19 nests using remote cameras. In addition, 16 audiovisual surveys of birds flying to and from nesting areas were conducted, recording 372 total detections at five locations. This project is a cooperative effort between two offices of USFWS —

KNWR (**Bill Pyle** and **Robin Corcoran**) and Ecological Services Divisions (**Ellen Lance**); USGS, Alaska Science Center (**John Piatt**); and OSU.

Jenna Cragg (University of Victoria [UVIC], Victoria, BC, Canada) conducted radar surveys for Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets on Kodiak Island for her MSc project. She was assisted by **Alan Burger** (UVIC), **Robin Corcoran**, and **John Piatt**. Jenna is developing radar monitoring protocols for *Brachyramphus* murrelets in Alaska.

After a 5-year hiatus, **Kathy Kuletz** (USFWS) and crew members **Liz Labunski**, **Karen Brenneman**, and **Tamara Zeller** returned to survey Kachemak Bay in Cook Inlet, south-central Alaska. The 1-week July survey provided population estimates for Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets in the bay; both species had lower numbers than during surveys in 2005-2007. The highlight of the 2011 survey was sighting Long-billed Murrelets (*Brachyramphus perdix*) on transect, and we were able to get photographs. Two of the Long-billed Murrelets acted like a pair, and all three were in alternate plumage.

Bob Day and **Adrian Gall** continued bimonthly aerial surveys for Steller's Eiders (*Polysticta stelleri*) in Iliamna and Iniskin bays, in western Cook Inlet. They also conducted a boat-based survey of breeding birds with the help of **John Shook** and **Pam Seiser**. Over the past 6 years, this project has documented the use of these bays by summering and wintering birds to provide baseline information for permitting applications related to the Pebble Project, a mining development proposed in southwest Alaska. This project will continue through 2012.

In summer 2011, **Laura Phillips**, **Leslie Adams**, and **Monika Parsons** (Kenai Fjords National Park [KEFJ]), together with **Jen Curl** and **Christine Hunter** from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and **Leslie Slater** (AMNWR), initiated a cooperative 3-year study of seabirds in the Kenai Fjords region. They conducted boat-based surveys to identify colony locations, counted individuals and nests, and

re-counted historical photo plots that were established during the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. They established new photo plots for colonies of ledge-nesting seabirds, including Black-legged Kittiwakes, Pelagic Cormorants, Red-faced Cormorants, Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Common Murres, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. In addition, they considered passive monitoring methods (time-lapse cameras) for certain colonies and species that were difficult to access or where they wanted to collect more extensive and detailed data. The goal of the project is to develop a long-term monitoring plan for seabirds in the Kenai Fjords region; they plan to use Bayesian hierarchical modeling to examine the ability of protocols to detect population trends. Field work will continue in 2012 and 2013. Funding is by the National Park Service.

Scott Hatch (USGS) and others continued long-term research and monitoring of seabirds on Middleton Island, in the north-central Gulf of Alaska. **Lena Agdere** (California) led a field crew consisting of volunteers **Sharon van den Eertwegh** (The Netherlands), **Lucy Brooks-Marchant** (England), and **Mike Johns** (California), as well as PhD candidate **Thomas Merklings** from the Université Paul Sabatier (Toulouse, France), his assistants (**Elise Albert** and **Romain Durieux**) and, during June, his academic supervisor **Dr. Pierrick Blanchard** (Toulouse). Coming from Fairbanks for portions of the season were **Jorg Welcker** (a post-doc on loan from the Norwegian Polar Institute) and his field assistant **Chris Barger** (graduate student at the University of Alaska). Of particular interest during 2011 are the results of GPS trackers deployed on breeding Black-legged Kittiwakes, which revealed a shifting pattern of early-season foraging compared to previous years. Combined with an apparent dietary change and improved breeding success in 2010 and 2011, there is reason to suspect that a long-awaited ocean regime shift may be underway in the Gulf of Alaska.

Several researchers have formed a new nonprofit corporation, the Institute for Seabird Research and Conservation, under the direction of **Scott Hatch**, **Bill Sydeman**, and **Vernon Byrd**. Their goal is to pursue the development of a permanent station for seabird research and monitoring on Middleton Island.

In Prince William Sound, **Mary Anne Bishop** (Prince William Sound Science Center) and **Kathy Kuletz** (USFWS) continued their study on seasonal and interannual trends in seabird predation on juvenile Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) during winter months, including environmental and habitat factors associated with seabird distribution. This project is part of the Herring Restoration Plan funded by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

At St. Lazaria Island (part of AM-NWR), the 2011 seabird monitoring crew consisted of **Ashley Hovis**, **Amanda Millay**, **Ashley Bolwerk**, and **Leslie Slater**, with short-term help from **Michelle Badolato**. Data were collected on the following: (1) population trends of Leach's (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Pelagic Cormorant, Glaucous-winged Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Tufted Puffin; (2) annual productivity of Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm-Petrels, Pelagic Cormorant, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Tufted Puffin; (3) Chick growth for Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm-Petrels and Rhinoceros Auklet; and (4) diet sampling on Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm-Petrels, Glaucous-winged Gull, and Rhinoceros Auklet.

Alexis Will (UAF) began graduate work on Rhinoceros Auklets on St. Lazaria to learn about adult foraging locations during the breeding season. Her work is funded by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), as part of the Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem

Research Program. Another component of the NPRB study included at-sea observations of seabird and marine mammals from two research vessels. **Leslie Slater** oversaw this work, which took place on seven separate cruises between April and October. Sampling stations for collecting data on oceanographic variables, and the seabird and marine mammal transects that connected the stations, were located across a broad area—from central southeast Alaska to the south end of Kodiak Island. Many people contributed to these observations: **Toby Burke**, **Sophie Webb**, **Declan Troy**, Slater, **Veronica Padula**, **Jacklyn Slawson**, **Mike Neary**, and **Ashley Hovis**.

Blake Barbaree, graduate student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU, completed his thesis titled "Nesting season ecology of Marbled Murrelets at a remote mainland fjord in Southeast Alaska." He was working with **Kim Nelson** (OSU) and **Scott Newman** (Food and Agricultural Organization) on a larger project studying the inland and at-sea ecology of Marbled Murrelets at Port Snettisham, AK.

DATA PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Data from all of the USFWS at-sea surveys conducted by **Kathy Kuletz** (USFWS) will be archived in the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database (NPPSD) as well as at BOEM and the NPRB. The NPPSD is maintained by **Gary Drew** (USGS, Alaska Science Center). The data are publicly available.

Robb Kaler (USFWS) maintains the North Pacific Seabird Colony Database and has been working to increase the accessibility of this resource. The North Pacific Seabird Data Portal (web access via Seabirds.net) is a collaborative effort to provide seabird researchers with a place to archive and serve their seabird data to other marine researchers, to resource managers, and to the general public. The portal contains detailed information on colonial seabird biogeography (distribution and relative abundance),

seabird diet data, and soon, at-sea seabird information. Additionally, the data portal provides information on indices of seabird population trends (over a 10-year period) and seabird productivity (relative to mean clutch size for the species).

At the Ecological Wildlife and Habitat Analysis of the Land- and Seascape (EWHALE) lab at UAF, **Falk Huettmann** and his students worked on the development of a Circumpolar Open Access Seabird Distribution Model. They were assisted by **Grant Humphries** and had great support from **Yuri Artyukhin** (Kamchatka Institute of Ecology and Nature Use, Russia) and **Olivier Gilg** (Université de Bourgogne). The model includes over 25 environmental layers for 27 seabird species. The model has good prediction accuracy, and it is being applied for a general conservation assessment of circumpolar shipping lanes. Falk is an ongoing participant of the International Polar Macroscopic Working Group of the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML), which assesses the marine biodiversity of both polar regions. Together with all international partners involved, a standardized and consistent set of over 25 environmental GIS layers and metadata was made publicly available for both poles (<http://www.scarmarbin.be/>). Falk also finished his UAF sabbatical and published a book that deals, in part, with seabirds and the "Protection of the Three Poles" (co-authored with several PSG members). Finally, Falk was invited to participate as a data manager in the IceAGE project (<http://www.iceage-project.org/>) with the German RV *Meteor* on a month-long cruise. He developed predictive marine biodiversity models for this region, and pelagic seabird surveys off Iceland and southeast Greenland were carried out, using distance sampling and other survey methods.

Grant Humphries' Masters research at UAF, on dimethyl sulfide and storm-petrels, is being published; he has moved on to a PhD program in New Zealand.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Compiled by Jennifer Boyce

Rebecca Lewison and **Kate Good-enough** are working on a project investigating fine-scale movements and diet of Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) nesting in San Diego Bay, California. Utilizing a combination of methodologies, including radio telemetry, stable isotope analysis, and colony observation, they are obtaining information on adult Gull-billed Tern movements and adult and chick diets. They plan to continue monitoring gull movements and diets through the 2012 breeding season.

Martin Ruane (Natural Resources Manager), **Francesca Ferrara**, and **Rebecca Kelley** (Wildlife Biologists, U.S. Navy) are monitoring nesting colonies of California Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum browni*) at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu. Monitoring is conducted by walking through the colony to find and track nests and observing colony and nests from blinds. Adaptive predator management is done each season to aid in recovery. During the 2011 nesting season from 467 to 671 pairs of California Least Terns were estimated, initiating 717 nests. Numbers of nests and pairs were the highest recorded. However, nesting and fledgling success were lower than in recent years, due to chick and fledgling predation, high winds, nest abandonment, and possible shortage of prey. In addition, NBVC Port Hueneme is home to a small nesting colony of Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), which is the one of the few mainland colonies in southern California. Brandt's Cormorants began nesting on the site in 2007, when seven nests were documented. The colony is monitored for population and breeding success. The colony has increased in size each year since its inception. A peak of 71 fledglings was documented in 2009 and 108 fledglings in 2010. In 2011 there were 42 nests, with 124 large chicks and fledglings observed on 23 June 2011.

Annette Henry of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is working with **Lisa Ballance**

and **Robert Pitman** (both of NOAA) to analyze seabird data collected in the eastern tropical Pacific and California Current ecosystems.

Laurie Harvey (National Park Service) continues to oversee seabird projects in the Channel Islands National Park, under the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP). On Santa Barbara Island, alcid habitat restoration was coupled with social attraction for Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), resulting in the first successful recruitment into restored areas. This project is scheduled to continue for approximately five additional years. Concurrent studies included: (1) the effects of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) predation on nesting Xantus's Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) and Cassin's Auklets (**S. Thomsen**, Simon Fraser University), and (2) use of nest cameras to investigate breeding biology of the Xantus's Murrelet (in collaboration with **N. Karnovsky**, Pomona College). Reproductive monitoring for these and other species was conducted as in previous years.

On Santa Cruz Island, the two ongoing MSRP projects to benefit Cassin's Auklets and Ashy Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) continued, with partners **F. Gress** of the California Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES), **B. McIver** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), **H. Carter** (Carter Biological), **K. Flagg** and **D. Hartley** (Growing Solutions), and **J. Adams** (United States Geological Survey). Habitat restoration on Scorpion Rock is ongoing; native plant percent cover to support expanded Cassin's Auklet nesting is approaching target goals, with an expected 3 to 5 years of additional work needed to complete plant community restoration. Social attraction and disturbance reduction efforts for the Ashy Storm-Petrel were continued in the sea caves and offshore rocks of Santa Cruz Island; the nesting colony at Orizaba Rock has responded positively to restoration efforts. One additional year of social attraction is planned to ensure colony stability. Concurrent studies included:

(1) investigation of the demographics of the Ashy Storm-Petrel using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags; (2) audiovisual studies to determine behavior of the Ashy Storm-Petrel at nesting colonies.

A feasibility study was conducted at Anacapa Island in 2011 with collaborators **H. Carter**, **F. Gress**, **M. Parker** (CIES), and **M. McKown** (University of California, Santa Cruz) in 2011 to determine restoration potential for several species. This study resulted in the first documented Ashy Storm-Petrel nest on the Anacapa Island group. Future restoration work is being considered under the Phase 2 MSRP plan.

In addition to the restoration work, reproductive monitoring was conducted as follows: (1) Santa Barbara Island: Xantus's Murrelets, Cassin's Auklets, Ashy Storm-Petrels, Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Brandt's Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Pigeon Guillemots (*Cephus columba*), Western Gulls, (*Larus occidentalis*), and Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*); (2) Anacapa Island: Brown Pelicans, Brandt's Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), and Xantus's Murrelets; (3) San Miguel Island: Cassin's Auklets, Common Murres (*Uria aalge*), and Black Oystercatchers; (4) Santa Cruz Island: Ashy Storm-Petrels, Cassin's Auklets, Black Oystercatchers, and Pigeon Guillemots.

Kathy Keane (Keane Biological Consulting) and her colleagues continue to oversee the California Least Tern nesting site at the Los Angeles Harbor, as well as nesting in the Harbor by Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*), Elegant Terns (*Thalasseus elegans*), and Black Skimmers (*Rhynchops niger*). She will be participating in a population modeling workshop on the California Least Tern in spring 2012. She hopes for publication in the coming year of the study on the status of the California Least Tern population that she presented at PSG and the World Seabird Conference in 2010. Keane has

completed a research project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding California Least Tern foraging with respect to dredging locations that have been proposed in southern California by the Corps of Engineers; she is awaiting comments on the report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Keane lives part-time on the east coast of Baja California, where she watches Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), leads bird walks, and presents talks about bird identification and conservation. She hopes to volunteer soon for ongoing restoration projects on seabird islands off the Baja coast.

Trevor Joyce just completed the first year of his PhD at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla. He will investigate the impacts of tuna fisheries and El Niño-Southern Oscillation variability on the associations of tuna and seabirds in the tropical Pacific. (See also Regional Report for Hawai'i, *Pacific Seabirds* 38[1-2]: 27).

Pat Baird (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada) mentored students in California (CA) and in Latin America. She taught them various field methods, including mist netting, banding, drawing blood, radio-tagging, conducting at-sea surveys, identifying food samples, and monitoring of foraging. The birds used for these projects were California Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum*) and Western Sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*). She also mentored graduate students at California State University (Long Beach and Fullerton, CA), and collaborated with scientists from Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA) in an ecological assessment of San Diego Bay, CA.

LATIN AMERICA

Compiled by Jennifer Boyce

The project "Ecology and present status of the Galápagos seabird community: a study of spatial and temporal variation of their diet, trophic relationships, distribution and present status of their populations" was started in 2011 by **Carlos A. Valle** of the Galapagos Academic Institute for the Arts and Sciences, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador. Collaborators included **Steve Emslie** (University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, USA), **Bill Sydeman** (Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research, Petaluma, CA, and the Global Center of Excellence, USA), and **Todd Miller** (Center for Marine Environmental Studies, Japan). The researchers aim to conduct this long-term research project over the next 10 years, but its continuation will be largely depending on available funding.

Valle and his collaborators censused seabird populations on Islote Pitt and around Punta Pitt on San Cristóbal Island. Study species included Red-footed booby (*Sula sula*), Nazca Booby (*S. granti*), Blue-footed Booby (*S. dactylatra*), Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*), and Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrurus furcatus*). They also conducted a quick search for nests of the Galápagos Shearwater (*Puffinus subalaris*), storm-petrels (*Oceanodroma tethys* and *O. castro*), and Red-billed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon aethereus*). Samples of breast feathers of all these

species were collected for analyses of diets, using stable isotopes, and for pollutants (mercury). Preliminary analyses have been run. During 2012, they expect to conclude analyses and submit results for publication. A total of 30 nests of Red-footed Boobies with young were monitored in Punta Pitt over the breeding cycle, to assess reproductive success and the impact of cat predation.

At Isla La Plata near mainland Ecuador, monitoring of the seabird community continued during 2011, under Valle's advice and the leadership of Equilibrio Azul, an Ecuadorian marine conservation and research foundation. Results of a 4-year monitoring program (2008-2011) are in the process of analysis. They will serve as the honors thesis for an Ecuadorian undergraduate student from Universidad San Francisco de Quito, and we expect to publish these results during 2012.

A two-day international workshop on the conservation of the Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*) was held at Isla Mocha, Chile during 2011. Chilean government officials, non-government employees, and academics were joined by Canadian and US specialists and by Mocha residents. The attendees discussed conservation issues impacting the shearwaters and possible solutions. There was a field trip to the shearwater colony in the late evening, when participants witnessed birds returning to their burrows.

The Advisory Committee for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels met in Guayaquil, Ecuador in August 2011. Workshops were associated with the meeting.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

The Pacific Seabird Group publishes symposia and other works. **PSG Symposia** are occasionally held at Annual Meetings; those which have been published are listed below. **Technical Reports** prepared by PSG working groups also are listed. *To order one of these PSG publications, please see instructions after each item.*

Abstracts of papers and posters given at PSG meetings are published annually. Abstracts for meetings of 1974 through 1993 appeared in the PSG Bulletin (Volumes 2–20); for meetings of 1994 through 2003, in Pacific Seabirds (Volumes 21–30); and for meetings of 1997 and later, at www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

PSG publishes the journals *Pacific Seabirds* (www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) and *Marine Ornithology* (www.marineornithology.org). Current and past issues of both journals are available online or by subscription. Back issues may be obtained online; those of Pacific Seabirds also are available from the PSG Treasurer (order form on last page).

SYMPOSIA

SHOREBIRDS IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS. Frank A. Pitelka (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Asilomar, California, January 1977. Published June 1979 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 2. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

TROPICAL SEABIRD BIOLOGY. Ralph W. Schreiber (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Honolulu, Hawaii, December 1982. Published February 1984 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 8. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

MARINE BIRDS: THEIR FEEDING ECOLOGY AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RELATIONSHIPS. David N. Nettleship, Gerald A. Sanger, and Paul F. Springer (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Seattle, Washington, January 1982. Published 1984 as Canadian Wildlife Service, Special Publication. *Out of print; available free of charge at* www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

THE USE OF NATURAL VS. MAN-MODIFIED WETLANDS BY SHOREBIRDS AND WATERBIRDS. R. Michael Erwin, Malcolm C. Coulter, and Howard L. Cogswell (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium at the first joint meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Society and the Pacific Seabird Group, San Francisco, California, December 1985. Colonial Waterbirds 9(2), 1986. \$12.00. *Order from:* Ornithological Societies of North America, PO Box 1897, Lawrence, Kansas 66044; phone (800) 627-0629; no online orders.

ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF GULLS. Judith L. Hand, William E. Southern, and Kees Vermeer (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Colonial Waterbird Society and the Pacific Seabird Group, San Francisco, California, December 1985. Published June 1987 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 10. \$18.50. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

AUKS AT SEA. Spencer G. Sealy (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Pacific Grove, California, December 1987. Published December 1990 in Studies in Avian Biology, Number 14. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF THE MARBLED MURRELET IN NORTH AMERICA. Harry C. Carter, and Michael L. Morrison (Editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Pacific Grove, California, December 1987. Published October 1992 in Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Volume 5, Number 1. \$20.00. *Order from PSG Treasurer* (order form on last page), *or available free of charge at* www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

THE STATUS, ECOLOGY, AND CONSERVATION OF MARINE BIRDS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC. Kees Vermeer, Kenneth T. Briggs, Ken H. Morgan, and Douglas Siegel-Causey (editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird

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Group, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia, February 1990. Published 1993 as a Canadian Wildlife Service Special Publication, Catalog Number CW66-124-1993E. **Order free of charge from:** Publications Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, Canada.

BIOLOGY OF MARBLED MURRELETS—INLAND AND AT SEA. S. Kim Nelson and Spencer G. Sealy (Editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Seattle, Washington, February 1993. Published 1995 in *Northwestern Naturalist*, Volume 76, Number 1. \$12.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page), **or available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

BEHAVIOUR AND ECOLOGY OF THE SEADUCKS. Ian Goudie, Margaret R. Petersen and Gregory J. Robertson (editors). Proceedings of the Pacific Seabird Group Symposium, Victoria, British Columbia, 8-12 November 1995. A special publication compiled by the Canadian Wildlife Service for the Pacific Seabird Group. Published 1999 as Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper number 100, catalog number CW69-1/100E. **Order free of charge from:** Publications Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, Canada, **or available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

SEABIRD BYCATCH: TRENDS, ROADBLOCKS AND SOLUTIONS. Edward F. Melvin and Julia K. Parrish (editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Blaine, Washington, 26-27 February 1999. Published 2001 by University of Alaska Sea Grant, Fairbanks, Alaska. Publication no. AK-SG-01-01. \$40.00. **Order from publisher.**

BIOLOGY, STATUS, AND CONSERVATION OF JAPANESE SEABIRDS. Nariko Oka (editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Japanese Seabird Group and Pacific Seabird Group, Lihue, Hawaii, February 2001. *Journal of the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology* 33(2); Symposium (5 papers), pp 57-147, other papers pp. 148-213. In English with Japanese abstracts. \$75.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page).

OIL AND CALIFORNIA'S SEABIRDS. Harry R. Carter (convener) and Anthony J. Gaston (editor). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Santa Barbara, California, February 2002. Published 2003 in *Marine Ornithology* 31(1). **Available free of charge at** www.marineornithology.org

THE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF THE AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. Daniel W. Anderson, D. Tommy King, and John Coulson (editors). Proceedings of a Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group. *Waterbirds*, Volume 28. Special Publication 1, 2005. Published by the Waterbird Society. \$15.00. **Order from PSG Treasurer** (order form on last page).

BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF XANTUS'S MURRELET. Harry R. Carter, Spencer G. Sealy, Esther E. Burkett, and John F. Piatt (editors). Proceedings of a symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Portland, Oregon, January 2005. Published 2005 in *Marine Ornithology* 33(2):81-159. **Available free of charge at** www.marineornithology.org

SEABIRDS AS INDICATORS OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS. John F. Piatt and William J. Sydeman (editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Girdwood, Alaska, February 2006. Published 2007 in *Marine Ecology Progress Series* Volume 352:199-309. **Available free of charge at** <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v352/#theme>

Information on presenting symposia: Pacific Seabird Group Symposia or Paper Sessions may be arranged by any member who is interested in a particular topic. Before planning a special session, refer to Meetings/Symposia Guidelines at www.pacificseabirdgroup.org; also contact the Coordinator of the Publications Committee and the Scientific Chair for the meeting.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL SEABIRD RESTORATION WORKSHOP. Kenneth I. Warheit, Craig S. Harrison, and George J. Divoky (editors). Exxon Valdez Restoration Project Final Report, Restoration Project 95038. PSG Technical Publication Number 1. 1997. **Available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

METHODS FOR SURVEYING MARBLED MURRELETS IN FORESTS: A REVISED PROTOCOL FOR LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH. Pacific Seabird Group, Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee. PSG Technical Publication Number 2. 2003. **Available free of charge at** www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

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